Bible Lands As They Are Today

By James T. Nichols

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by

JAMES T. NICHOLS

Author of

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE
THE WONDERS OF SOUTH AMERICA
BIRDSEYE VIEWS OF FAR LANDS, ETC.

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Introductory Word

Ask the next ten people you meet to tell you what they would like to do if they had time and money to spare and eight of them will likely tell you they would like to see the peoples and countries of the world. Ask these eight what countries they would most like to visit and five or perhaps six will say, "The Lands of the Bible."

Twenty years ago I first visited many of the Bible lands and wrote, "Lands of Sacred Story." The little book was soon out of print as only one edition was published. During these twenty years some of these Bible countries have been visited several times. But this year (1924) I went again to Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, Italy and other countries to see the changes made since the World War. I found that tremendous changes are taking place everywhere. The old is giving way to the new on every hand; in fact, the Palestine of the Bible will soon be no more, for everything is being rapidly modernized.

This book is a glimpse of some of these changes and of conditions as they are today. These sketches were written hurriedly, many of them while on the ground and practically all of them completed before reaching New York. The illustrations are from late photographs and most of them are also being used in A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE. I am under great obligations to those who furnished the pictures, and proper credit is given as you will note by names beneath the pictures. It is impossible to give proper credit to all who furnished facts and suggestions for they were gathered from many sources. If the book proves helpful to those who peruse its pages, I will feel amply repaid for many hours of toil.

THE AUTHOR.

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Photos by M. G. Geil.

UPPER—SHIPS OF THE DESERT IN BIBLE LANDS.
LOWER—THE AUTHOR FOLLOWING THE PLOW.

CHAPTER I

A Wonderful Little Country

NO PART of any country so charms the human heart as does the little country we call Palestine. It is the land whose hills and valleys were trodden by the feet of Him who wore the crown of thorns. The most sacred memories of the human heart cluster about the manger-cradle at Bethlehem, and Mount Calvary at Jerusalem.

To Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, this land was the land of promise. To Joseph, it was a more fitting and sacred receptacle for his body than the mightiest pyramid in Egypt. To Moses and the nation he led from bondage, it was the land that flowed with milk and honey—the home of the redeemed.

To David and Solomon, this land was the spot upon which to erect the structure which was to be the meeting place between God and man. To the exiles in Babylon, this land was their hope by day and their dream by night, and their longing to return to it was so great that it drove the music from their hearts and through their tears they chanted, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I remember thee not."

Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Great Britain are all small countries with great histories, and while this land is much smaller than either, it has a greater history than all of these countries combined. I

rode nearly the length of it in a day in an automobile, and you could get into an aeroplane and fly all over it in a couple of hours.

The World in a Nutshell

All Palestine is only about as large as twelve Iowa counties. From Dan to Beersheba is only a little farther than from Des Moines to Council Bluffs, or New York to Baltimore. Yet this little land is a universal land—the world in a nutshell, as some one has tritely put it.

Between snow-capped Mount Hermon on the north, which is ten thousand feet above the sea, and the torrid basin of the Dead Sea on the south, which is thirteen hundred feet below the sea, are found all the zones and climates on the earth.

In this land the geologist finds all the rock formations and geological ages, the botanist finds most of the plants and trees, the zoologist finds nearly all of the animals, birds and fishes that are found on land and sea. At least, anything that will live and grow any place on earth will live and grow in Palestine.

The Land Proves the Bible

Without this land the Bible could not have been written, hence the land proves the Book. The Bible also proves the land, for it describes most minutely the entire country and there is not an incorrect statement of the geography or topography of the land in the entire Bible.

Although mountainous and full of rocks, the soil of Palestine is very fertile. No artificial fertilizer is needed. In most places small, soft limestones are formed everywhere, and when the rains come

this lime is dissolved and mixes with the soil just at the time when the plowing and planting are done.

The Jews of old were an agricultural people and practically lived from the soil. Their manner of farming was altogether different from our western methods, and to understand the Bible we must know the methods and customs of the East, for the Bible is an Eastern Book. Reverend Samuel Schor, who was born in Jerusalem, has written a little book, called "Palestine and the Bible," which is very enlightening and from this I am quoting freely when it comes to agriculture and the manners and customs of the East.

I was over nearly all of Palestine twenty years ago and have just returned from a recent visit. Some things in these chapters were written and published years ago, but much of the material in these chapters was written "on the spot" but a few weeks ago and I am simply rewriting it in a connected story.

The Old Giving Way to the New

The above is mentioned to call attention to the fact that tremendous changes are now taking place. Palestine is being rapidly modernized; manners and customs are changing—the old is giving way to the new.

A wonderful system of highways has been built and the donkey and camel are giving way to the motor car and truck. Soon the primitive plough, like that which was used by Abraham and Job and which a man could easily carry to the field on his back, will give way to the John Deere and Moline.

The hand sickle is being replaced by the modern mowing machine and self-binder and the steam

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

SNOW ON PEAKS OF THE MOUNTAINS OF LEBANON.

thresher is taking the place of the old threshing floor. Hence, it will soon be harder than ever to understand the meaning of many of the expressions in the Bible.

One thing that is bringing about so many rapid changes is the fact that Jewish settlements are being established all over Palestine. British occupation since the war is ushering in a new day for the Jew. There are some eighty of these Jewish settlements already established and they have more than eighteen thousand people in them. While most of them are small, yet some of them are already assuming large proportions. I am going to describe briefly the largest and most successful of these.

The Only Jewish City on Earth

The name of this modern little Jewish city is Tel Aviv. It is located not far from Jaffa, which is in southwestern Palestine on the Mediterranean Sea. In 1909, the location was nothing but sand dunes. Until the war came on it did not look as if anything would come from it.

But today Tel Aviv is a strictly modern city of many thousand people, holding private property valued at ten million dollars. It has municipal property worth two hundred fifty thousand dollars. Its people live in twelve hundred homes, every one of which is connected with the city water supply. The city has its own schools and its own hospital. It also had its own electric plant until the Jaffa Electric Company erected a great power station near.

Tel Aviv is really the first Jewish city since the days of the Romans. The population is practically all Jewish. The mayor and his counsellors, the

police inspector and his force of forty-four men, the street cleaners, the porters and even the boot-blacks—all are Jews.

While Tel Aviv is the residential district where the Jewish business men of Jaffa have their homes, it is also becoming a commercial and industrial city. It has tanneries, oil presses, carpenter shops, a brick factory, furniture factories, floor tile works, a chocolate and candy factory and other industries.

A Concrete Highway

On the seashore not far distant is a modern bathing establishment and a large restaurant known as the Casino. The first concrete road ever built on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean was the road that connects this resort with the center of the town of Tel Aviv.

While this little city has factories, yet many of its inhabitants get their living from the soil, and the fruit orchards, grain fields and vegetable gardens all around are a sight to behold.

CHAPTER II

Agriculture in Palestine

AS ALREADY indicated, the Palestine of the Bible was the land of the farmer, as Frank G. Carpenter suggests in his new book "The Holy Land and Syria." Abraham was a farmer and stock raiser; so were Isaac and Jacob; Job was the cattle king of his day. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred she asses for breeding purposes.

Lot was one of the wealthy farmers of the Jordan valley before he moved to Sodom. Kish was a farmer when he sent his son Saul to find the stock that had strayed away. This young man went out to find his father's asses, but instead found a kingdom. Boaz was a farmer and it was in his wheat field that Ruth gleaned. She was not only successful in gleaning, but her charms won the love and heart of the owner of the farm and she afterwards became the mistress of the farm, and through her descendants came the Saviour of the world! Jesse was a farmer and David, his youngest son, took care of the sheep and learned to throw stones with his sling as straight as a bullet flies.

This skill, attained by continual practice, made the shepherd boy the hero of the army when he killed the giant Goliath. No wonder the women sang his praises and fell in love with him. Elisha was plowing when called to be the follower and successor of Elijah. Bethlehem, the birthplace of

Photos by M. G. Geil and H. C. Heckerman.

IN THE RUINS OF THE SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM.
OUR COMPANY IN PALESTINE.

the Redeemer, was a farm village and the Saviour was born in a cattle shed. He grew to manhood in Nazareth, another farm village.

Christ's Ministry Among Farmers

The ministry of Jesus was largely among farmers and herdsmen and nearly all of his illustrations and parables have to do with the soil. To understand His teachings it is absolutely necessary to know something of the Eastern farmer's life.

Visiting Palestine today, one sees many things in farm life that Jesus talked about that our farmers know nothing about. Only the other week I saw women at work in a Palestine wheat field just before harvest time. Asking my guide what they were doing he replied, "They are pulling out the tares."

On looking into the matter, I discovered that if the seeds of tares were left in the wheat the flour would make bitter bread. At once I began to really understand the parable of the tares that Jesus used so forcefully in one of His sermons.

In the days of Jesus, oxen only were used to plow. Horses for farm work have only recently been brought into Palestine by the Zionists who are now rapidly settling up the country. In the old days a plow had but one handle. While the farmer had hold of the plow with one hand he held in the other hand a pole six or eight feet long, in the end of which was a sharp nail. This was called a "goad" with which he prodded the animal.

Land Unchanged for Centuries

It seems almost a miracle that the Lord allowed the Land of Palestine, and its people as well, to re-

main unchanged through all the centuries until travelers from every other land on earth had a chance to see the customs and methods that were in use in the days of the Saviour.

Until very recently, Palestine remained practically unchanged. The life of the people was exactly the life of Bible times. The visitor could see the manners and customs of Abraham and David, as well as those of the times when Jesus lived among men.

Perhaps, after all, there was a good reason why the Turk was allowed to have such a hold upon Palestine until the "fullness of time." A thousand years is but a day with the Lord. While the Mohammedan was a curse to the Palestine farmer, perhaps it was the best way to preserve the Bible manners and customs until they were well known throughout Christendom.

The Heartless Tax Collector

The Turkish assessor and taxgatherer was the curse of the Palestine farmer all the years. These unscrupulous officers squeezed all the ambition from the tiller of the soil. They went over the olive orchards while the trees were in bloom and levied the tax for the season. If the crop failed, the farmer oftentimes was compelled to cut down the trees and sell them for wood.

Conditions were the same if a man raised wheat. Selling to the highest bidder, the right to collect the taxes in a given district was the curse of the farmer in the time of Christ, and it has remained so all these hundreds of years. These men had no mercy on the farmer. He was always watched by the tax gatherer or his agent, and never less than one-eighth of the crop was taken for taxes.

Photos by Dr. Sunkle and M. G. Geil.

TRAVELING BY THE CAMEL EXPRESS.
A SCENE NEAR OLD SAMARIA.

In addition to these heavy farm taxes, there was a head tax which amounted to about two dollars of our money for every man and boy. This often meant a large sum to the poor man, but it had to be paid just the same. Then there was a tax on nearly everything the farmer used for any purpose whatever.

Nile Flowing Into Palestine

Before the late war, the Arabs had a saying that the Turk would rule the Holy Land until the waters of the river Nile flowed into Palestine. Of course, this was another way of saying that he would rule it forever, for they actually thought that no nation or combination of nations could make the Turk loosen his hold, especially as he was an ally of the Kaiser.

This ancient saying has literally been fulfilled. When General Allenby led the British army from Egypt into Palestine, water must be had for both man and beast. Not only was a railroad built across the desert, as the army moved toward Jerusalem, but a pipe line carrying water from the Nile was also laid and when Jerusalem was taken the waters of the river Nile actually flowed into the Holy Land.

A Striking Prophecy Fulfilled

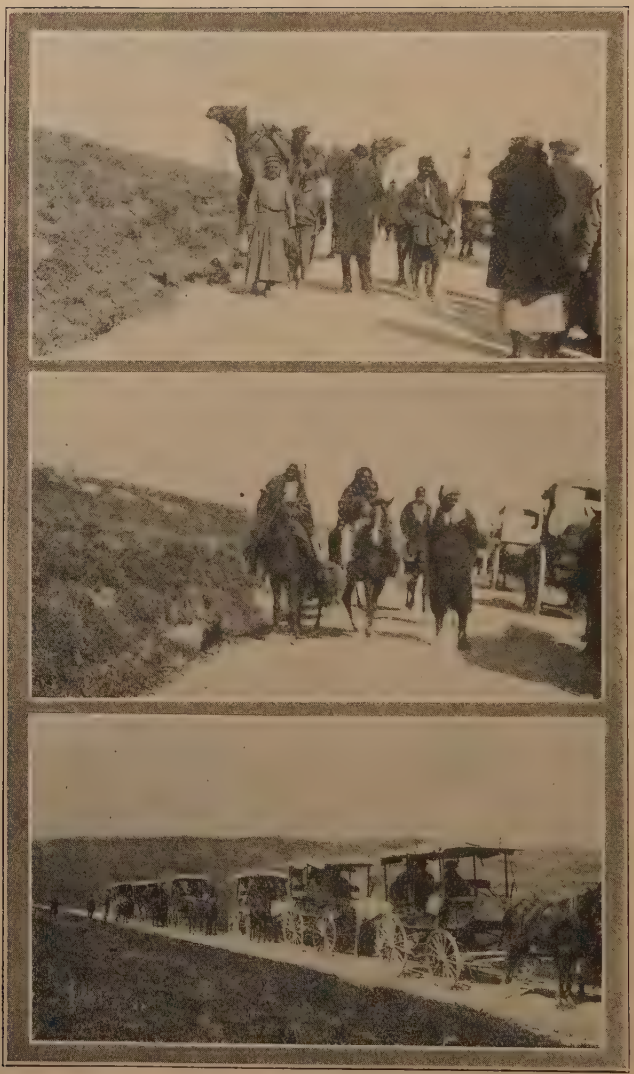
In connection with this, another very interesting thing happened. Many Bible scholars interpret a prophecy to mean that when Jerusalem was taken from the Turk not a shot would be fired at the city. This prophecy is Isaiah 31:5 which reads, "As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also He will deliver it; and passing over

He will preserve it." When the British army approached the city General Allenby wired the Prime Minister of England asking, "Shall I bombard Jerusalem?"

The answer to this wire came quickly from London, "You are on the ground; do as you think best." General Allenby was not yet satisfied and sent a message to the King of England asking, "Shall I bombard Jerusalem?" The answer came back very soon, "Make it a matter of prayer."

The British General then took his staff apart and they got down upon their knees and prayed. Just as they arose, a messenger was seen coming. As he came nearer, they noted that he had a flag of truce. It was the man surrendering the Holy City to the British General. Later in the day General Allenby walked unarmed through the gate into the city as a deliverer, as the prophet had predicted nearly a thousand years before.

Sorry they had left the city, the Turks paused in their flight, placed their guns and prepared to destroy the city. Suddenly the aeroplanes of General Allenby's army appeared and they fled, so that not a shell was fired against the city of Jerusalem.



Photos by Henry Wiederhold.

METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION IN PALESTINE.

CHAPTER III

Dawn of the Farmer's Brighter Day

IN THIS chapter I want to tell of the farmer's new day in the Holy Land. Many believe that according to prophecy the Jews will return to Palestine and not only restore the soil to its old-time fertility, but make it a home for the Jewish race. Whether this is according to prophecy or not, it seems that this dream is fast becoming a reality.

In another chapter, the Jewish city of Tel Aviv is briefly described. This is not strictly agricultural, although many of the people in this little city live from the soil. Tel Aviv is an exception to the general rule. These Jewish colones date back as far as 1882. In that year seventeen Russian Jewish immigrants settled on the sandy desert southeast of Jaffa.

This settlement was named Rishon-de-Zion, which means "The First in Zion." It was really founded by the Rothschilds and it was to give Russian Jews a refuge or home. Now, it is a flourishing agricultural colony. The chief product of this colony is wine, as they have planted hundreds of acres in vineyards. It is said that the wine cellars of Rishon are the third largest in the world.

This is not the only product, however, for Rishon has hundreds of acres in oranges, almonds, and other fruits. All kinds of vegetables are also produced. The village contains about twelve hundred people. They live in substantial stone houses, have

a Jewish synagogue, schools, public gardens, post office and telephone office.

Palestine Folks Live in Villages

All people in Palestine live in villages. No farmer lives apart from others. It would not be safe in the first place, and then the Eastern idea is for many to live together. There are several other Jewish colonies in the Jaffa district.

In this part of Judea, I saw large wheat fields and self-binders at work, for it was harvest time when I visited the country. There were fields of corn which was about waist high. All kinds of fruit and vegetables were to be seen on every hand.

Tobacco is also cultivated in this part of the country. Many acres were in cucumbers and melons, and hundreds of camels, cattle, sheep, and goats were grazing contentedly in the pastures. I learned that goats are more delicate than sheep. Damp, cold weather will often kill goats and leave sheep unharmed.

A Large Orange Industry

Before leaving this Jaffa district, it will be worth while to call attention to the orange trade. Jaffa oranges are known the world around as the sweetest and juciest that grow. The trade is increasing rapidly. During the war it received a setback, of course, but has now become almost as large as before the war. In the year 1913-1914 the reports show that one million six hundred eight thousand five hundred seventy boxes of oranges were exported and they brought one million five hundred thousand dollars. During the season of 1922-1923, one million four hundred sixty-four thousand five

hundred eighty-eight boxes were exported and they brought one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars.

The orange season in Jaffa lasts from November until the end of April. The trees have to be irrigated and take a lot of water. While some of the old-fashioned water wheels turned by blindfolded cattle or camels are still used, yet these Jewish settlements are introducing modern machinery and motor engines. In this district about seventy-five hundred acres are in orange groves.

These Jewish and other orange growers of the Jaffa district have formed the Co-operative Society of Orange Growers. This society controls about one-fifth of the orange groves in the district, and it buys for its members all the oil and fertilizer used, as well as all the raw materials for making boxes, packing, etc. England and Egypt purchase the bulk of oranges exported from Jaffa.

The Three Divisions of Palestine

Palestine is divided into three divisions, viz.: Judea in the south, Galilee in the north, and Samaria between the two. The Jaffa district is in Judea but there are many Jewish colonies in both Galilee and Samaria.

One of the oldest colonies in Galilee is not far from the Sea of Galilee. It is at the foot of the hill upon which the town of Safed is located. This is the little city to which Jesus referred when he said, "A city set upon a hill cannot be hid." Go where you will around northeastern Galilee, you can hardly look up without seeing Safed.

Forty years ago this colony was founded, its name signifying "Corner Stone." Cereal cultivation and dairy farming are the main occupations of the

colony, although almonds, oranges, and grapes are produced. Quite recently tobacco growing was introduced, it being found that this soil and climate produces a leaf of the highest quality.

The Plain of Esdraelon

Some of the greatest Jewish colonies I saw in Galilee are on the great Plain of Esdraelon. Twenty years ago I do not remember to have seen a field of anything growing on this great plain, but today it is a regular beehive of industry. The various colonies on this plain have in them sixteen hundred people—all farmers—and they farm eighteen thousand five hundred acres of ground.

I visited the historic springs called The Fountain of Harod, mentioned in the seventh chapter of Judges. Here Gideon tested his great army and all but three hundred failed in the final test. Near this was a marsh covering four thousand acres which was a source of malaria for the whole district, largely caused by these springs. Now all this surplus water is pumped to different points and used for both drinking purposes and irrigation and the land is reclaimed.

Near the city of Haifa I saw a newly established colony of about one hundred families, who are introducing modern machinery, tilling the soil and setting out large almond orchards. I was told that the almond tree grows faster and is more hardy than any other tree and they are setting out almond trees and grafting others upon them.

Jews Persecuted in Many Lands

Two thousand years ago the land was taken from the Jews, and as they have been persecuted nearly

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

WOMEN OF PALESTINE WITH WATER JARS ON THEIR HEADS.

everywhere and knocked from pillar to post, often not been allowed to own land, they have gotten away from agriculture. But they are coming back to their first love.

The Mohammedans and Arabs are against them and are trying to keep them out, but the British are trying to give them a square deal in Palestine. They are reclaiming land from swamp and sand; they are making gardens and orchards where nothing grew before they came; they are coming with modern methods and machinery into the Holy Land and are ushering in a new and brighter day for the farmers. This land upon which three-quarters of a million people have simply existed can be made to support from three to five million people, and the Jew will make it do so if he is allowed to have a chance. All hail British rule!

CHAPTER IV

Modern Industries in Palestine

BEFORE the war, the industries of Palestine amounted to but little. Outside of the most primitive agriculture and small production of fruit, wine, olive oil, and soap, and raising a few sheep and goats there was nothing. There was never a day that hundreds of people were not half starved and half the people never had a full meal.

Besides agriculture, which has already been briefly described, there are now other industries that are worthy of notice in this sacred land. In Haifa, I saw a new, up-to-date flour mill with every modern contrivance and a possible output of fifty tons of flour per day. In the same city, a large factory for the production of various oils is being built and the company has a capital of more than a half million dollars.

In Nablus and Jaffa the soap industry is booming, and in 1922 Egypt alone bought two thousand, four hundred eighty-nine tons of Palestine soap. It is produced mostly from olive oil. A Portland cement factory is soon to be erected in Haifa, and the company has an authorized capital of a million dollars. The possible output of the brick factory in Tel Aviv is fifteen million bricks annually.

Oil May Revolutionize Palestine

The mineral resources of the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley are well known and two companies are

PALESTINE SHEPHERDS AS ONE SEES THEM TODAY.

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

now working on the oil proposition and it is possible that this one industry will revolutionize the whole country. At any rate, there are in the vicinity large deposits of rock phosphate, bituminous limestone, rock salt, sulphur and gypsum, to say nothing of other minerals.

The Palestine Salt Company was formed in 1921, with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, for the production of salt from the waters of the Mediterranean Sea by solar evaporation. Two thousand years ago the Romans carried on the industry of salt production at the very spot where this company is at work. The site is full of historic interest, as here used to be both the Phoenician and Roman encampments.

There are natural basins specially adapted for the production of salt. It took all of last year to complete the works which are now producing salt and the possible output is fifty thousand tons annually. Modern machinery, including grinding mills, all up to date, is in use. A railroad has been built connecting the plant with the Haifa-Egypt line.

This particular place was one of the most unhealthy spots in Palestine, but with great drainage and sanitation systems installed by this company, the benefits will reach over a broad area. I also saw the salt works at the Dead Sea, but did not learn either the extent or success of the enterprise.

The City of David

For many years Bethlehem has been noted for its small mother-of-pearl industry, but since the war the manufacture of souvenirs from mother-of-pearl and olivewood has become quite a large industry. I had a glimpse of the glass and pottery industries at Hebron, which date back to pre-Ro-

man times, and while both are small and primitive yet there are quite large possibilities in them.

The tanning industry has been carried on in the old primitive way for more than two thousand years. When Peter was sent for at Joppa by the centurion the messenger was told that he was stopping at the home of Simon the tanner. Steps are being taken to not only enlarge this industry, but introduce at least some modern methods.

Since the war, numerous industries have sprung up such as chocolate and sweet factories, furniture and ice factories, textile factories, engineering workshops and printing presses. While these are not very large as yet, in them is seen the modern trend of affairs.

In the weaving industry, which has been carried on in a primitive way for ages, the fly-shuttle has only since the war been introduced and the desire for improvement will certainly bring about great changes.

Land of Milk and Honey

Palestine used to be spoken of as the land of milk and honey, but only since the war has either dairying or bee-keeping been engaged in to any extent. More than two thousand varieties of flowers grow in this little country, and the honey industry will undoubtedly be greatly developed within the next few years.

The automobile has also brought an entirely new industry into this land, and I was especially interested in this in the city of Nazareth. It is really striking how this has put new life into many of the young men.

The fishing industry in Palestine is thousands of years old. Peter and Andrew, James and John, the

four disciples whom Jesus called, came from the ranks of the fishermen at the Sea of Galilee. This body of water is alive with the best of fish today.

My first meal in Tiberias was almost wholly of fish that had been swimming in the sea but a few hours before, and it was the best meal I had in Palestine. It is said that a couple of years ago a single party took five tons of fish from this little body of water in one day, and this so glutted the market that a six-pound fish brought only a penny. Now that the railroad touches this sea and on the line are cities like Damascus, Haifa, Jerusalem and Cairo, anyone can see the future possibilities of this industry.

Modern Improvements Everywhere

By the way, I rode from Damascus to the Sea of Galilee and from Jerusalem to Cairo on well-equipped trains with dining cars and all such. One can leave Cairo in the evening in a sleeping car as comfortable as can be found in America, have breakfast the next morning in the well-equipped diner and get to Jerusalem long before noon.

When I heard that a plan is now on foot to harness the water power of the River Jordan for irrigation purposes and furnish electric light and power for the whole country, I was surprised; but while in Jerusalem I was told by a man who ought to know, that engineers are at work on a plan to actually raise the waters of the Sea of Galilee for irrigation purposes. One of the engineers was at the hotel at which I stopped, but I did not know it until he had gone to Galilee. Surely things are happening in Palestine these days and all this is but the beginning of some mighty forward strides.

Photo by John H. Hauberg.

FISHERMAN CASTING HIS NET INTO THE SEA.
PLOWING IN PALESTINE.
WATERING CAMELS IN THE SEA OF GALILEE.

CHAPTER V

Around Lake Galilee

ONE of the greatest days I lived in Palestine was at the Sea of Galilee. This little body of water was the scene of some of the greatest works of our Lord. Here the crowds gathered in such numbers that He often had to get into a boat and push out into the sea in order that He might have room to speak to or to teach them.

Twenty of the thirty-seven recorded miracles were wrought at or around this little lake. It was here that Peter was told to take his hook and cast it into the sea and in the mouth of the first fish he caught he would find a piece of money worth enough to pay the taxes of himself and the Master.

It was here that the disciples, after fishing all night and catching nothing, let down the net again at His word and the result was the miraculous draught of fishes. It was just yonder that the demons went into the swine and they rushed down to their death into the water. Over yonder a little way Jesus fed the multitude of five thousand men, besides women and children from five small loaves and two little fishes and twelve baskets full of fragments were gathered up, that nothing be lost.

The Winds and Waves Obeyed Jesus

Here it was that the storm arose that frightened the men who were raised on the sea and when He said, "Peace, be still," the wind stopped blowing and the waves stopped rolling and the water be-

came smooth as a floor. Is it any wonder that the disciples looked at each other in blank astonishment and said, "What manner of man is this that the wind and the sea obey him!"

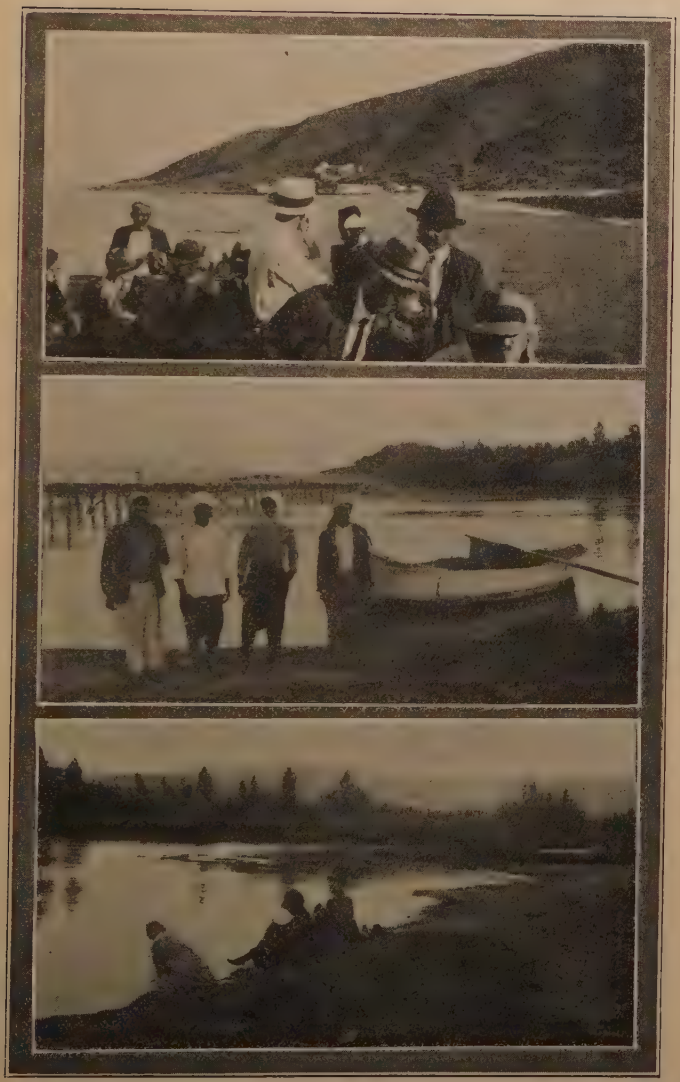
On this water He walked in the morning dawn and when Peter was told to "come," while he kept his eye upon Jesus, he walked without danger, but the moment he looked down at the water he began to sink.

This wonderful body of water is something like the shape of a pear, and but thirteen miles long and half as wide. It is six hundred eighty-two feet below the level of the Mediterranean, a half hundred miles away, surrounded by hills and mountains. The Jordan comes in through a canyon at the north and leaves by another at the south. Violent winds often come rushing down from the north and in a few moments' time the waters are seething and foaming like a mighty whirlpool.

The Camels Come and Go

The railroad from Damascus runs almost due south for a hundred miles across Trans-Jordania, and then almost due west for twenty-five or thirty miles to the extreme southern tip of Lake Galilee. Much of the country is wild, stony and unproductive. The people also are wild and turbulent, and every time the train stopped, armed guards paced up and down the track on either side of the train. The wild Bedouins are all Moslems and resent the coming of western civilization.

Great camel trains crossing the country are continually in sight. For thousands of years the camel has been the freight car of this country. At several points herds of camels and sheep were grazing in



Photos by John H. Hauberg.

On the Sea of Galilee.
Lower edge of the Sea of Galilee.
The Upper Jordan.

the fields. On one occasion a herd of camels was crossing the track and the engine struck one of them. I happened to be looking out of the window at the time and saw the great beast roll over and over down the grade. The head was entirely severed from the body.

The engineer was blowing the whistle continually and the camel herder made every possible effort to save the beast, but failed. Camels sell for from seventy-five to two hundred and fifty dollars. They can be worked when they are three years old and many of them live thirty years.

Some Historic Mountains

All day long old Mount Hermon was in sight, its snowy caps glistening in the sunlight. The mountains of Lebanon could also be seen. Cesarea Philippi where Jesus asked His disciples "Whom do men say that I am?" could also be seen part of the time. It is only a few miles south of Mount Hermon and three miles from Dan, which is the extreme northern point of Palestine.

Coming down into the great basin where Lake Galilee is located there is some wonderful scenery. There are some very deep caverns and picturesque waterfalls. Often at the bottom of these canyons some of the soil is tilled and in little villages people have gardens. Wild flowers that are very gorgeous and beautiful grow in great abundance.

The little town at the southern tip of the lake is called Samakh. It contains a few hundred people. What a wonderful day I spent on Lake Galilee! The sun was hot but the weather was ideal. While there are many small boats of fishermen, there is one quite large steam launch. Nearly a hundred

people can be crowded upon it and then there are generally small boats drawn behind by ropes.

The Ruins of Capernaum

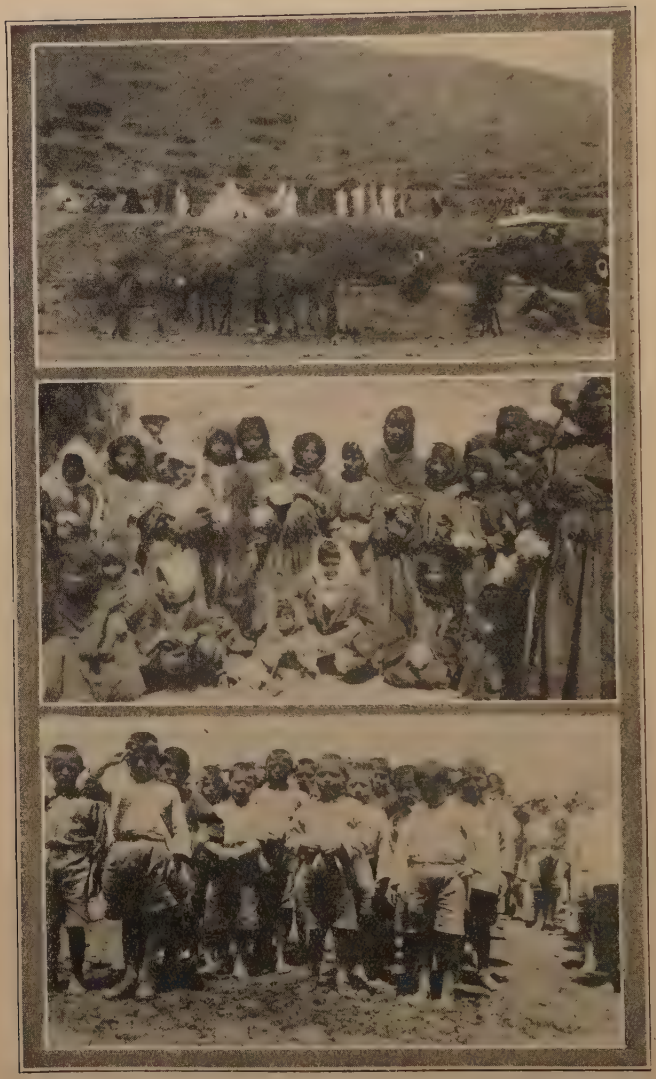
One of the most interesting places to me was the site of old Capernaum. In the days of Jesus, there were half a dozen quite large cities located on the west and north coasts. The fishing and other industries were then at their height.

When rejected at Nazareth, Jesus made His home at Capernaum. Here many of the recorded miracles were performed. One of the first was the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, who was down with a fever. Here lived the nobleman whose son as dying when he hurried to Jesus and said, "Sir, come down ere my child die." Jesus said, "Go thy way, for the child liveth," and it was cured at that very hour.

Here at Capernaum, He opened the eyes of blind men; unstopped the ears of the deaf; healed demoniacs and raised Jarius' daughter from the dead; it was here that the paralytic was let down through the roof and where the centurion's servant was healed. Jesus is said to have marvelled twice—once at the Jews' unbelief and once at the Gentiles' faith.

Many Cities in Ruins

Woes were pronounced upon many of the cities around the lake and everyone of them is in ruins today. Chorazin, Magdala and Bethsaida were in the list—they are gone. "And thou, Capernaum, which are exhalted unto heaven, shall be brought down to hell." I am giving you a glimpse of the ruins of these cities, and especially the ruins of the



Photos by John H. Hauberg.

SCENE NEAR CAPERNAUM.
NATIVES AT RUINS OF CAPERNAUM.
A GROUP OF NEAR EAST RELIEF BOYS.

synagogue in Capernaum, as I walked through them.

This building was on the seashore. It was a magnificent building more than seventy feet long and about fifty-five feet wide. Some of the marble pillars are three feet in diameter and the finish and carving upon them is wonderful.

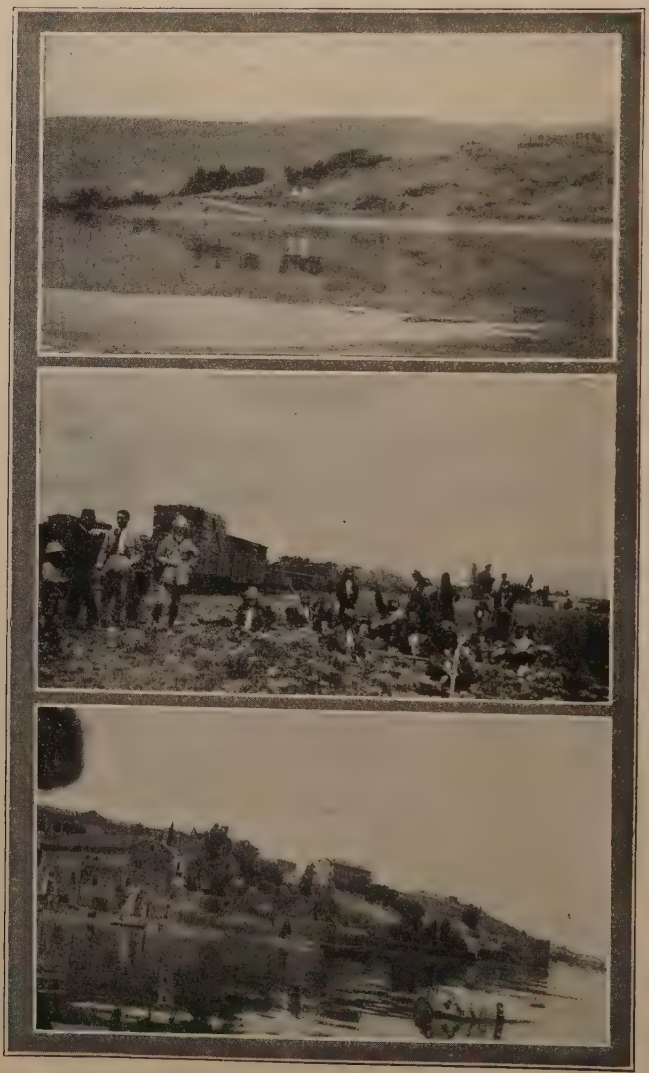
Only a very small part of the ruins of Capernaum have been explored as yet. The only inhabitants of the place are a Franciscan monk, called Father Wendelin, and a lot of wild Bedouins. This monk has been there for many years. I first supposed that he was a missionary, but not so; he is simply the guardian of the property which belongs to the Roman Catholic church. He will not allow anything taken away. A thousand acres or more of ruins are there and when they are explored, no doubt, new light will be thrown upon many things that we now do not understand.

I am told that practically all this property used to belong to the Greek Orthodox church, but years ago when the Moslems were taking everything, the head of the Greek church wrote the Pope at Rome for assistance, which was given, and from that day on the Roman Catholics have been acquiring property in Palestine as fast as they could.

Guardians of Property

Upon the side of the hill not far from Capernaum is a large stone building—an Italian Agricultural farm. Only monks live there and they, too, are guardians of Roman Catholic property.

The excavating at Capernaum was practically all done by the Germans before the World War. The Kaiser was behind the Sultan of Turkey all the



Photos by Miss Haller and Miss Breithaupt.

SCENE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE.
RAILROAD WORKERS NEAR SEA OF GALILEE.
TIBERIAS ON THE SEA OF GALILEE.

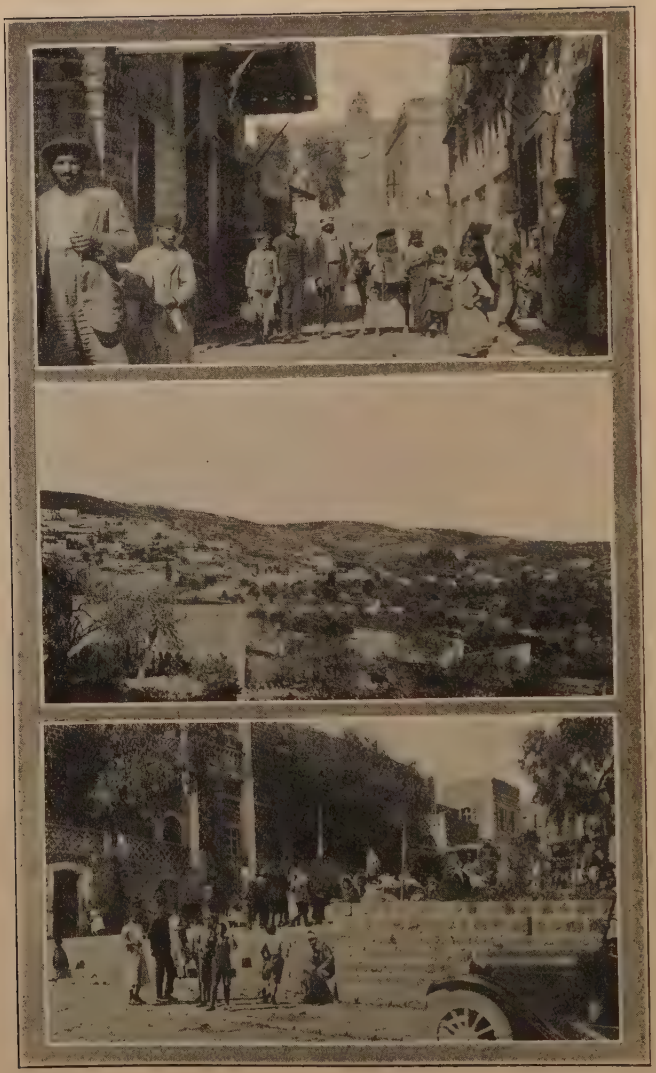
time, and the Germans were the only people who were allowed to do any excavating on anything like a large scale.

Visiting the head waters of the Jordan where they come into the lake, there is quite a large plain. This is pointed out as the place where Jesus fed the five thousand. All that remains of Bethsaida was also visited. Here is one quite substantial stone building and beautiful flower gardens, as well as a large productive truck garden. This is kept by German Catholics, who are guardians of the property.

The Home of Fishermen

Bethsaida was the great fishing center in the old days. Jesus often visited this city, it being the home of several of His disciples. Located on a plain at the foot of the mountain, it is an ideal place for such an industry. The village today contains quite a number of natives who live in small shacks and work in the gardens and take care of donkeys, cattle and goats.

Lest you get the idea that no people live on the shores of Galilee, I will say that there are thousands of acres on the Jordan and other plains both at the north and south, with villages scattered here and there. There are some rich meadows, a few tilled fields and orchards of orange, lemon and almond trees, as well as other varieties. Fishing is carried on at many points, such as at the places already mentioned and many others, among which is the old site of the city of Magdala, and which was the home of Mary Magdalene.



Photos by Henry Wiederhold.

STREET SCENES IN TIBERIAS,
ALSO A GENERAL VIEW OF TIBERIAS.

CHAPTER VI

The City of Tiberias

THE only city of any size located on the Sea of Galilee today is that of Tiberias. Here I enjoyed a short but most delightful visit. The Hotel Tiberias is quite a modern building and a real comfortable home for travelers. The best meals I had in Palestine were at this hotel.

The city contains about eight thousand people, two-thirds of whom are Jews. It is said that there are ten Jewish synagogues in the city, but I visited only one of them. It was a good-sized building and there was a service at which were a goodly number of men.

Judiasm is a men's religion and women have no part in it, neither have children. It is a remarkable fact that Christianity is the first and only religion that gives women and children any prominent part. At the time of Christ, woman's lot was a hard one, for she was little better than a slave. Even today, in nearly all Eastern countries, woman is looked upon as far inferior to man. A man would almost rather go naked than to put on any article of dress worn by a woman.

In the temple at Jerusalem, there was a "Women's Court," but women had no part in the worship, other than a very small part in the music. In this synagogue at Tiberias, there is a place for women out of sight of the men. She can watch the men as they worship. The men always keep their hats on in an orthodox Jewish synagogue. Here

they had some very aged copies of the ancient Hebrew Scriptures written by hand and upon a roll.

The Call to Prayer From Minaret

There are a good many Mohammedans in Tiberias and they have a mosque or church. Sitting on the veranda of the hotel, I saw and heard the Muazzin as he made the call for prayer from the minaret.

The faithful Moslems are called to prayer five times a day. The first call is at five o'clock in the morning. The words, "God is Great" are repeated three times and then he says, "I bear witness that there is no God but God except Mohomet. Come to prayer, come to prayer." At the early morning call he adds the words, "Prayers are better than sleep."

I took a long walk in the evening through the narrow, crooked, foul-smelling streets of Tiberias. The Arabs used to say, "The king of fleas lives in Tiberias," and I imagine this is true today in much of the city, although I was not bothered by them in the Hotel Tiberias.

Moonlight on Lake Galilee

One of the most beautiful sights imaginable is the Sea of Galilee on a moonlight night from Tiberias. In our party of pilgrims there were thirty-three people. At night all went down to the water's edge near the city and sat on rocks for an hour watching the moonbeams on the sparkling waters.

Some good singers were in the party and they led in such songs as "O Galilee, Blue Galilee," "Peace, Be Still," "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," "Shall We Gather at the River" and other old familiar hymns. It was an unforgettable occasion.

After traveling all over the Sea of Galilee in the steam launch, it was really hard to break away from Tiberias. The city was founded by Herod Antipas and was named for the Roman Emperor, Tiberias. The founder was the son of the Herod who sought to kill the Babe of Bethlehem. There is an early tradition that Jesus never visited Tiberias, and, if this is true, perhaps the memories of the heartless founder of the city had something to do with his avoiding this city.

Palace and Race Course

In the old days, Tiberias had a palace and race course, and when Jerusalem was destroyed it became the chief seat of the Jewish nation. It is yet classed as one of their three or four sacred cities.

On account of the prominence of this city, the body of water was often called the Sea of Tiberias. As this is the country of Galilee, it was often called the Lake or Sea of Galilee. It was also called the Lake of Gennesaret, on account of the great plain of that name near, and in the Old Testament it was called the Sea of Chinnereth.

Just south of Tiberias are located the famous hot springs, which perhaps not only account for the founding of the city, but also caused the Romans to make much of the city. Only a few miles to the southeast is where the plain of the Jordan begins, and the foot and wagon bridge across the waters of the Jordan can be seen. A little farther down is the steel railroad bridge across the Jordan.

Tiberias to Nazareth

It is something like twenty-five miles by automobile from Tiberias to Nazareth and the road is a

well-paved highway. Ascending the hill several hundred feet just west of Tiberias, one has a wonderful view. Nestled at the foot of the hills, the Sea of Galilee looks even more beautiful from the top of the mountain.

Across to the east in Trans-Jordania, you see the Hills of Bashan. To the north, the snowy peak of Mount Hermon looms up in the distance, and still farther away are the great Lebanon ranges. The Horns of Hattin, where the Sermon on the Mount was delivered, are very near.

From this point one can pick out nearly every one of the sites of the nine cities that were on the banks or in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee in the times of our Saviour. It is really a most wonderful view. The great Garden Plain (Gennesaret) is spread out at your feet.

Westward, is a great table-land dotted by villages and Jewish colonies, where all kinds of grass, grain, flowers, and trees are growing. Wheat and barley were ready for the sickle. It was an this table land that I saw the first evidences of western methods of agriculture, as I had come down from the north into Palestine.

Wonderful Ruined Cities

I may say here that Trans-Jordania has been called the key to many a miracle, for the rock-hewn city of Petra was located in the southern part of this country. It contained very many rose-red temples, tombs and palaces. In the north, the great underground city of Edrei has been discovered. It was in Trans-Jordania that the world-famous Moabite Stone was found, which both gave light to some unexplained Bible statements and silenced skeptics along certain lines.

Photos by Miss Breithaupt.

Cana of Galilee.
The road to Jericho.
One of the highways in Palestine.

The most interesting stop on the journey to Nazareth was at Cana, where the first recorded miracle of our Lord was performed. He was a guest at a wedding and when the supply of grape juice ran short He turned water into wine.

Inside the church in Cana are kept a couple of very large limestone jars and they actually tell you that they are the identical receptacles in which was the wine that Jesus made. Near by is the spring from which the water was taken, according to their story. This latter statement may be true, but as for the former—I simply let it go in one ear and out the other. Of course, they want "backsheesh" for allowing you to look upon these sacred relics.

CHAPTER VII

The Home of the Carpenter

BEFORE reaching Nazareth, I got out of the motor car and walked to the top of the mountain just north of the city, from which one has perhaps the finest view of Palestine. No other spot on earth presents such a view. Every foot of mountain, valley and plain is historic.

Off to the north, there is all and more than can be seen from the mountain top near Tiberias, mentioned in the last chapter. To the west something like twenty miles is old Mount Carmel and just beyond is the Mediterranean Sea.

Turning to the south, one sees the great Plain of Esdraelon, which for centuries has been called the world's greatest battle field. It is actually said that more battles were fought on this plan that decided the destiny of nations than on any other spot on the globe.

Beyond this plain are the mountains of Samaria, and only about sixty miles away, as the crow flies, is the city of Jerusalem. To the southeast is the Plain of Jezreel, the mountains of Gilboa, Little Hermon and old Mount Tabor. Beyond these is the great Jordan valley, and still farther east and southeast the mountain of Moab.

Looking Down Upon Nazareth

On this mountain top the wind was blowing very hard, almost a gale. Men, however, were working

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THE CITY OF NAZARETH. *Photo by Miss Maude Parsons.*

in a field and did not seem to mind the wind at all. It was a great sight to look down upon the home of the Carpenter as it lies nestled on the mountain side and among the hills below.

On the way down into the city is located a great Roman Catholic monastery, the buildings of which are almost new and cost many thousands of dollars. Where these people get so much money to erect such buildings as this is a mystery, but they do it just the same.

Some twelve thousand people today call Nazareth home. Many changes have taken place since my visit twenty years ago. The streets, however, are still the same narrow lanes and about as dirty as ever.

An Industrious Folk

But the people of Nazareth seem quite industrious and many of them were at their daily toil. There seemed to be very many children and young people, many of whom were very presistent in their efforts to sell almost worthless souvenirs.

Many of the Nazareth women are skilled in making lace and embroidery, and they throng through the hotel door when tourists are in town, trying to sell their wares. The hotels too, are much better than twenty years ago; the Hotel Galilee at which I stopped was not only modern but comfortable.

Nazareth is a hallowed city. To visit it thrills the heart of a Christian. For thirty years Jesus called it home, for here He lived all the years from babyhood until his ministry was well started.

No doubt He played with the boys as the children play today, for these Nazareth boys and girls seem to be a happy, jolly company.

Nazareth Never Destroyed

Nearly all the cities of two thousand years ago which graced the hills of Galilee are now in ruins, but Nazareth is the same peaceful country town as in the days of old. It is one city in Palestine that has lived through all the years without ever being destroyed.

On this account, it is quite possible that some of the so-called sacred places are authentic. Perhaps the old wall shown is really that of the synagogue where Jesus attended the Jewish service regularly every Sabbath day. As He grew up He was undoubtedly given some part in the synagogue service from time to time.

Best People Attend Church

After He began his ministry, the record says, "And He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

After He found an appropriate passage from the prophet Isaiah, He read it and applied it to Himself. "And all bear Him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' "

Then He proceeded to preach a sermon and the record continues, "And all they in the synagogue, where they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city and led Him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast Him down headlong. But He, passing through the midst of them and went His way, and went down to Capernaum,

a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days."

Poor, short-sighted people of Nazareth! Driving the world's greatest character from their city forever! He did not often go back to Nazareth after this rejection. But this is often the way of life. Now, they are proud to show the sacred workshop in which he labored.

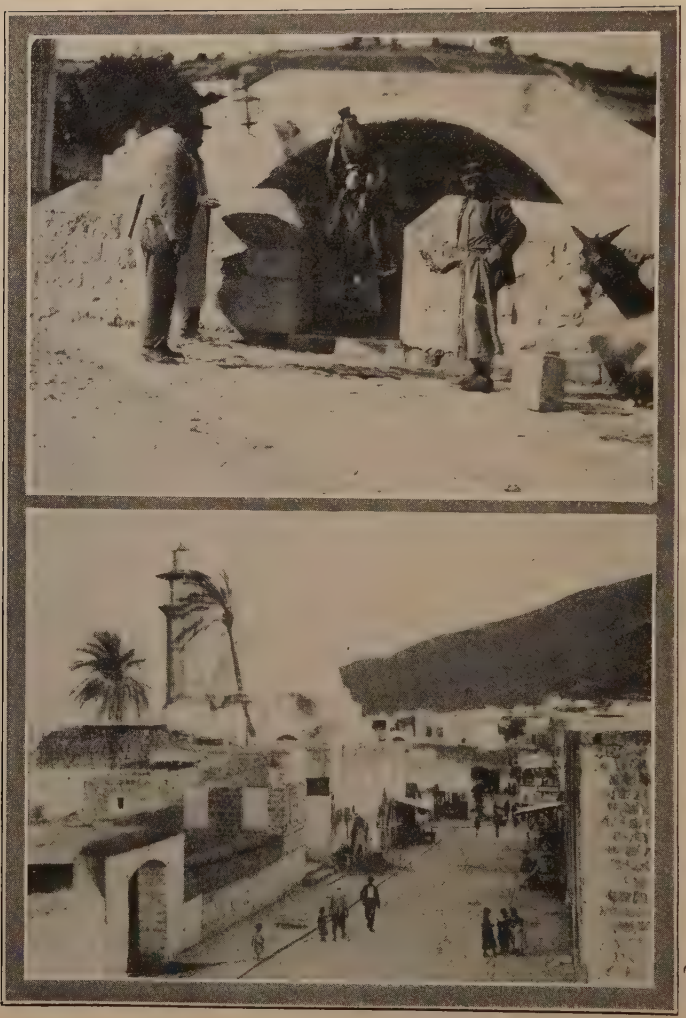
The Workshop of Joseph

Now, the Roman Catholics own the church, under which is a grotto that is pointed out as the workshop of Joseph. Also various other sects make all sorts of claims and show all sorts of sacred relics and you turn away from them all in sadness.

In another part of the city, however, there is a great spring of fresh water, which is undoubtedly the very fountain from which Mary carried water for house use when He was a little boy. This is said to be the only watering place that Nazareth has ever possessed. Of course, the water has been piped some distance where it is handy to get at, but it is the same fountain, just the same.

The various sects of so-called Christians are also divided over the location of the precipice where they brought Him for execution, some showing one place and some another. Half of the population of Nazareth today are Moslems, and as long as the Christians dispute over these sacred spots, the former are making converts.

I was especially interested in the cave-like streets where the shops and little factories of the city are located. There are many small carpenter shops and men and boys work, hour after hour, but seem to accomplish very little.



Mary's Well at Nazaretih.
The City of Tiberias.

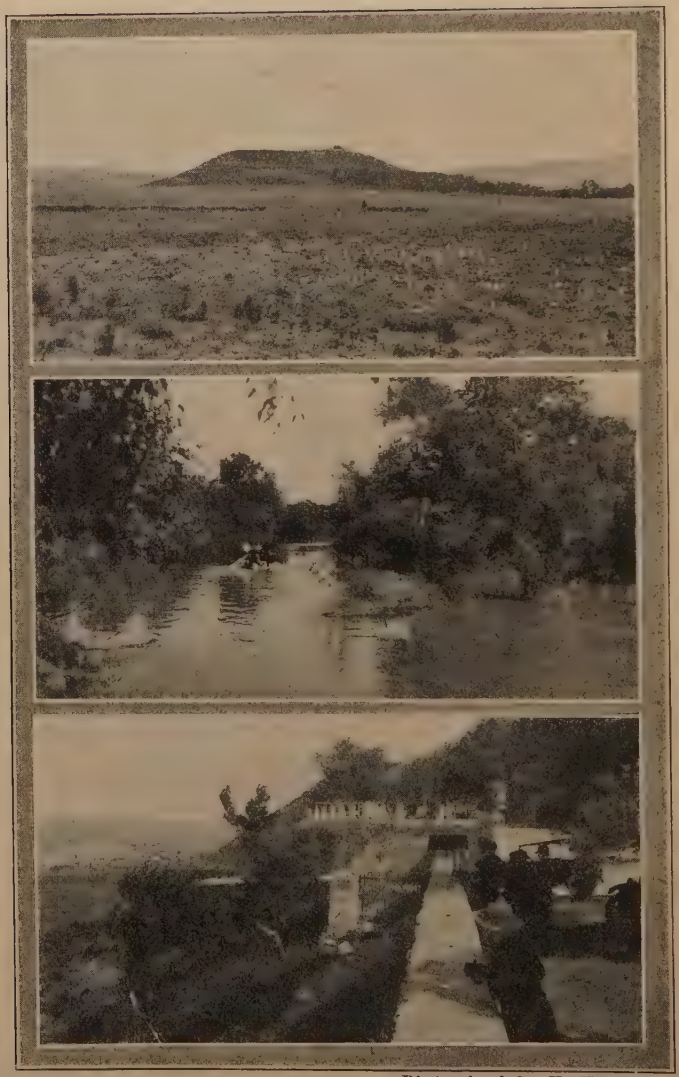
Photos by H. C. Heckerman.

The most lively workmen were about the automobile garages. As there are some splendid highways emanating from Nazareth in several directions and travelers are always coming and going, this gives employment to bright young men and some of them seem to be fair workmen.

Great Work of Near East Relief

In the edge of the city, the Near East Relief people have an orphanage for boys that is a most creditable institution. I spent a most delightful evening at an entertainment there and must say that the boys in the orphanage have considerable talent. For two hours they entertained a small audience in a way that was marvelous, to say the least.

There were several hundred boys in this orphanage and each one had a history that was thrilling. Often it was a story of untold suffering and hardship. Surely the Near East Relief has done some of the most heroic work in trying to save the lives of children that has ever been done by any organization, and the people who have given their money for this work have given better than they ever dreamed.



Photos by John H. Haubery.

UPPER—HILL OF DOTHAN.
CENTER—THE RIVER JORDAN.
LOWER—MT. CARMEL OVERLOOKING BAY OF ACRE.

CHAPTER VIII

Mount Carmel and Haifa

IT IS about twenty-five miles from Nazareth to Haifa by auto road. The ride is very interesting, for many villages are sighted, and the highway passes through several of them. One very industrious Jewish colony is passed. The houses are all built around a certain point and they look to be substantial dwellings.

There are some good-sized wheat fields, almond orchards, and, on the whole, the country is quite prosperous looking. I could not keep from comparing the conditions with twenty years ago when I rode over the same route. Then there was no industry, people lived in hovels and most of them were always hungry.

At that time I was held up for a government tax at one of the villages. One could not go anywhere without permission from the Turkish government. It was necessary to have the proper official in Haifa stamp my Turkish passport, giving permission to visit Nazareth. As I could not find him I went without, and at Nazareth I was taken up and fined. My experience before these "city dads" was both interesting and amusing.

Mount Carmel is a great mountain ridge along the seashore, more than a dozen miles long. Just east of it is the River Kishon, which goes almost dry during the summer season. At the south end of Mount Carmel between it and the sea is the little town where the great salt works, mentioned in the

chapter on modern industries in Palestine, is located.

Historic Palaces

Near the top of Mount Carmel is pointed out the place where Elijah and the prophets of Baal had the great test as recorded in the eighteenth chapter of I Kings. Here Elijah told King Ahab that there would be abundance of rain. As it had not rained for three years and there was not a cloud in the sky, it is hardly likely that the king believed him.

Then Elijah went up toward the top of the mountain into a sort of a grotto and prostrated himself and prayed for rain. After a time he sent his servant out where he could look at the sea to see if rain was coming. The servant returned saying, "There is nothing," and Elijah kept praying. The servant went six times and came back with the same answer, "There is nothing."

But the seventh time when the servant returned he said, "There ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand." At once Elijah got up from his knees and sent word to Ahab to hurry home before the rain came and stopped him. Great faith, that!

The Bible Confirmed

I was told that the actual scene of Elijah's sacrifice and contest with Baal's prophets has been traced by means of rock-cut altars which have been discovered. It is a sort of a natural amphitheater that would hold an enormous crowd, such as must have gathered that day. The traditional mound where the prophets of Baal were buried is also pointed out and is called the "Priests' Mound."

Before stopping the car, I drove to the top of the northern point of Mount Carmel where there is a great Catholic church and monastery. It is a wonderful building that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

From the top of this building one has a magnificent view. At the foot of the mountain just north and east is the wonderful Bay of Acre which used to be called the "Key to Palestine" and which played such a part in the history of the old days. On the north border of this bay is located the city of Acre. It is called Acco in the Book of Judges.

Acre is surrounded with great walls and fortifications and in the old days withstood some of the greatest sieges of history. Even a great military genius like Napoleon Bonaparte failed to break through its walls in the great siege of 1799. There are many places of historical interest in the city, but it is fast falling into decay and is becoming more insignificant all the time.

A Great Industrial City

Twenty years ago Haifa, which is at the south border of the Bay of Acre, was a small village. But the Damascus-Haifa railway was completed a few years ago and that changed everything. Then came the war and the completion of the railway to Cairo which connects with the Jerusalem line near Jaffa, and now Haifa is the great industrial city of Palestine, containing thirty-four thousand people.

From our viewpoint from the top of the Carmel Monastery, we can see the sites of old Tyre and Sidon away to the north on the coast of the great Mediterranean Sea. Looking almost straight down many hundred feet we see one of the most beautiful suburbs of any city in Palestine.

This is the western part of the city of Haifa. A German colony started this suburb, years ago, and it was laid out by landscape artists and architects. Now its straight streets, substantial buildings, beautiful trees and gardens, with an abundance of narcissus, anemone, asphodel and many other flowers growing, make it beautiful, to say the least.

I neglected to say that this monastery from which these views are described is called the Carmelite Convent. While no women are allowed in it, there is a hospice attached to it in which travelers are allowed to stay. The convent has a large library. I went over or through the great building from bottom to top.

Dwellings and Schoolhouse of Elijah

Beneath the building is an old cave or grotto that is pointed out as the dwelling place of the Prophet Elijah. We read that both Elijah and Elisha lived at Mount Carmel for many years, and established here a sort of theological seminary, which was called a school for the prophets.

Down near the foot of the mountain there is a very interesting ancient cave which was excavated in the natural rock and squared into a great room. Local tradition points to this as the location of the sacred college. In the Bible there are references to other schools for prophets as well as this one. One was located at Bethel and another at Jericho.

I may say further regarding this great rock chamber schoolhouse, that the sleeping places for the inmates can be seen, as well as grooves for curtains which divided the chamber, and the benches cut from solid rock on which the students sat while listening to their teacher.

A Comfortable Hotel

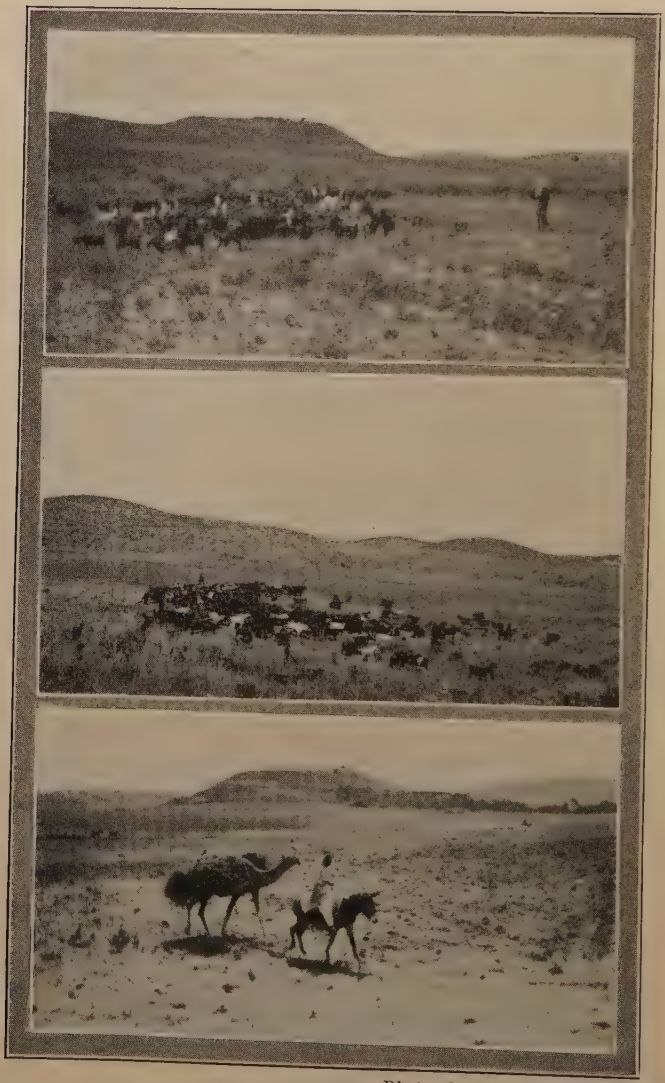
Going down this wonderful, winding, splendidly-paved highway, my car stopped at the Grand Hotel Nassar. I was surprised at the comfort and modernness of this Haifa hotel. In fact, these days one can travel through Palestine and be almost as comfortable as in Switzerland excepting, of course, that the weather is very hot at certain seasons.

While there are many good substantial business houses and some fairly respectable streets, yet most of the streets are narrow and dirty and many of the people live in a wretched condition. There is a central market place and much of the land around the Bay is very productive. All kinds of grain, vegetables and fruits are raised and modern methods are being introduced everywhere.

Best Harbor in Palestine

Haifa is, no doubt, destined to be the greatest Palestine port city. The harbor facilities are by far the best on the Palestine coast. The port at Jaffa is very dangerous and can never be made anything like safe in rough weather, as the rocks stick up from the bottom and greatly imperil traffic on the sea.

With a great modern flour mill with a possible output of fifty tons of flour a day, with many industries which are already assuming rather large proportions, with the great salt works but a dozen miles away, and the vast Plain of Esdraelon at its side, the possibilities of which are only touched as yet, and still other advantages both natural and artificial, Haifa is destined to be the greatest industrial and commercial center of the Holy Land.



SCENES ON THE PLAIN OF ESDRAELON. *Photos by John H. Hauberg.*

CHAPTER IX

Across the Plain of Esdraelon

THE great automobile highway from Haifa to Jerusalem through Samaria takes one from Haifa to Nazareth and then almost due south for more than sixty miles. It is one of the most interesting rides that one can take in any country. Much of the scenery is fine, but the historic interest is more fascinating.

As the automobile highway winds around the mountain almost every which way, the ride down to the border of the great Plain of Esdraelon was somewhat thrilling. However, the Palestine drivers are skilled chauffeurs and the Oakland car was one of the best.

Just to my left and in the distance was old Mount Tabor upon the top of which is now being erected a great Catholic church that will cost a million dollars, so it is said.

South of Mount Tabor is Little Hermon. At the foot and on the northern slope of a hill is the village of Endor, where King Saul went to consult the witch, as recorded in the twenty-eighth chapter of I Samuel.

Where Jesus Raised the Dead

Next is pointed out the village of Nain, and we recall the story in the seventh chapter of Luke of one of the visits of Jesus. "Now when He came nigh unto the gate of the city, behold there was a

dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and much people of the city went with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said to her, 'Weep not.' And He came and touched the bier; and they that were with Him stood still. And He said, 'Young man, I say unto thee, arise!' And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak! And He delivered him to his mother."

We can also see the place where Deborah and Barak mobilized their army and waited for a favorable time to attack Jabin and Sisera. In the army of the latter, were the chariots of iron which could not be driven up the mountain, and when there came a great rain so the chariot wheels would stick in the mud, Deborah and Barak swept down upon them with an army of ten thousand men, creating such havoc that it was said, poetically, "The stars in their courses fought against Sisera."

After passing the location of Nain, we cross the Damascus-Haifa railway track. This line crosses the Jordan just below Samakh, which is on the southern shore of the Sea of Galilee, goes more than a dozen miles almost due south to the town of Beisan and then almost fifty miles northwest to Haifa.

A Hospitable Family

Farther along, the village on the site of Shunem came into view. Here lived the family that thought so much of the prophet Elisha, who often passed that way, that they fitted up a room for the prophet. One day their son was out in the harvest field with the men and he was overcome by the heat. The lad was carried to the village, and later in the day died in his mother's arms.

This heart-broken mother carried the body of her dead boy into the prophet's chamber and laid it upon the bed, and then started to Mount Carmel to see the prophet. The record says that Elisha saw her coming and sent his servant, Gehazi, to meet her with instructions to ask if all was well. But the sorrowing mother did not want to talk to Gehazi and said "It is well."

Coming to the prophet, the Shunammite woman fell at his feet and sobbed out the story of her sorrow, refusing to go back home until Elisha went with her. On reaching the home, the prophet raised the dead boy to life again and once more that was a happy household.

It was not far from here that the Philistines had their camp just before the terrible battle in which Saul and Jonathan, as well as two other sons of Saul, lost their lives.

The Watch Tower of Jezreel

The next point of great interest is the site of the old city of Jezreel. The old ruins on the crest of the hill are all that is left of the "Watch Tower of Jezreel," see II Kings, chapter nine. From this spot watchmen saw Jehu coming, driving furiously in his race for a throne.

It was at Jezreel that Ahab had a beautiful palace with luxurious gardens, but envied Naboth, a humble workman, whose vineyard outshone his own. When Naboth refused to either sell or trade his little tract of land to Ahab, the king went home so mad that even Jezebel, his wicked wife and queen was alarmed.

When Jezebel found out Ahab's trouble she took matters into her own hands, had Naboth stoned to death, and his holdings transferred to the king's es-

SCENES AT OLD SAMARIA. *Photos by John H. Hauberg.*

tate. But when King Ahab went to take possession of Naboth's vineyard, Elijah met him and pronounced upon him the terrible sentence, "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine."

Also of Jezebel, who was instrumental in having the crime committed, the Lord directed Elijah to say, "The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the walls of Jezreel." These terrible prophecies both came true to the letter in the years that followed. This was a most terrible punishment for one of the blackest crimes ever perpetrated by a woman.

A little farther east in the Valley of Jezreel, occurred the battle in which Gideon and his three hundred picked men surprised and utterly defeated the Midianites, the record of which is found in the seventh chapter of Judges.

Where Gideon Tested His Army

The Bible Well of Harod where Gideon tested his army is found here. In the first test, twenty-two thousand failed and were sent away and only ten thousand were left. When the next test was applied, only three hundred men were found capable, and with them the vast army of the Midianites was put to flight. If you would appreciate the skill with which General Gideon worked out the surprise and manner of attack that won such a victory, turn to the Bible and read the entire story through very carefully again.

At the foot of the mountains of Samaria, at the south border of Esdraelon, is the modern town of Jenin. This is not a Bible town but is supposed to be the location of the place where Jesus healed the ten lepers, and the only one who returned to thank him was a Samaritan.

SCENES AT OLD SAMARIA. *Photos by John H. Hauberg.*

CHAPTER X

On Through Samaria

ALL understand that Palestine used to be divided into three divisions—Galilee on the north, Samaria in the center and Judea in the south. There was bitter enmity between the Jews and Samaritans and they had no dealings with each other.

Ordinarily, the Jews in Galilee when they wanted to go to Jerusalem, would not pass through Samaria. They would cross the Jordan to the east side while in their own country, go down the river until they came to Judea and cross back again, going perhaps a half hundred miles out of their way rather than pass through Samaria.

Leaving Jenin, the automobile road winds its way up and over the top of the watershed of the Mountains of Samaria, and then for several miles across a plain or rather table-land in a part of which the soil is fertile.

The Hill City of Dothan

Almost the first place of great historical interest is Dothan. The site is upon a hill that is almost inaccessible except from one side.

It was at Dothan that Joseph's brethern were feeding their flocks when he was sent out by his father to find them, and see how they were coming on. Near Dothan can be seen today some ancient rock-cut pits or cisterns, one of which is pointed out as the pit into which he was cast until the caravan

of Ishmaelites came along bound for Egypt, and to whom Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver.

If you will turn to the sixth chapter of II Kings, you will find another most interesting story concerning Dothan. The King of Syria had been attacking the Israelites and it seemed that every time his secret plans were given away.

Calling his generals together, he demanded who was the traitor among them. One of them replied, "None, my Lord, O King, but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber."

When it was found that Elisha was at Dothan, a great army was sent during the night and surrounded the hill upon which the city was located.

A Remarkable Story

The next morning when the servant of Elisha got up and saw this mighty host, he was frightened and ran to his master asking what they could do. And he answered, "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

"And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

From Dothan the road takes us on nearly due south and we pass many villages, some of which are quite prosperous. Olive and almond groves, wheat and barley fields, as well as vegetable gardens, greet us from every side.

Ascending another mountain ridge we finally get a glimpse of the "Hill of Samaria" and its surroundings, which as some one says, was the scene of so

many stirring events in the history of the kings of Israel.

A party of thirty-six of us were now traveling together in eight automobiles. Sometime before, when the company had stopped, the chauffeurs were in a conference together and some of them were talking very excitedly.

A Natural Fortress

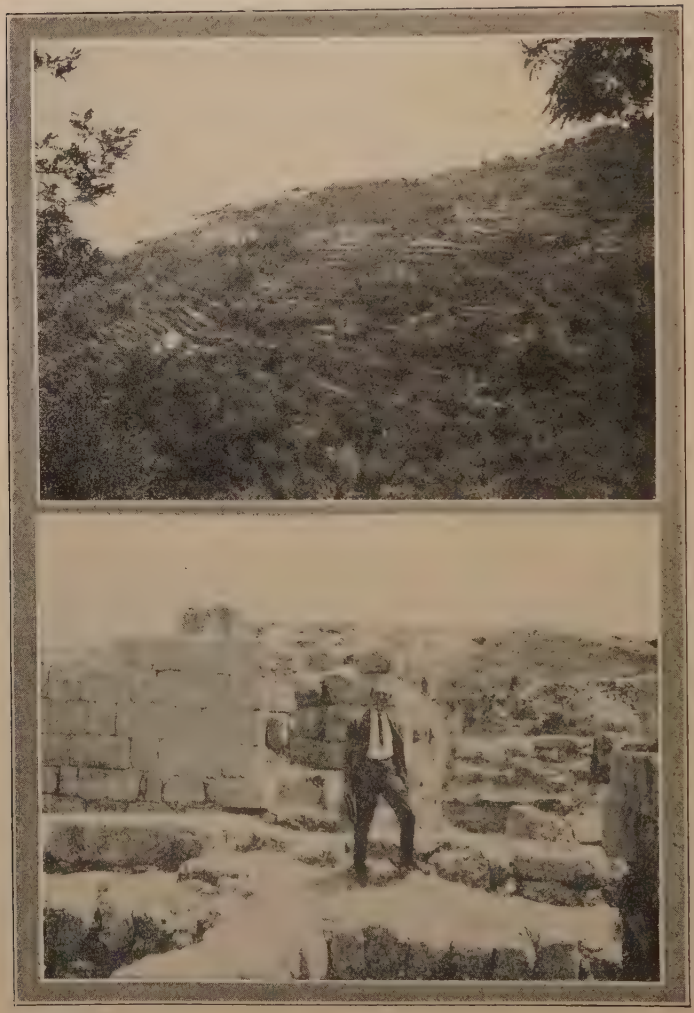
They had been given orders to go to the Hill of Samaria. Now, the auto highway misses this place of great historic interest by a couple of miles and the by-road is very rough and difficult to drive over. It developed that some of these drivers were setting up a great protest against it, but they finally yielded and drove the entire party to this historic spot.

In the old days, this Hill of Samaria, or Sebaste as it is now called, was a great fortress. More than five hundred feet above the plain and with a great table land on the top, this mountain was an ideal location for the capital city of the country in the times of Ahab, as well as both earlier and later.

At the foot of the hill are yet to be seen the ruins of the ancient aqueduct which brought abundance of water into a reservoir, which was called the Pool of Samaria. Water was taken from this pool to wash the blood-stained chariot of Ahab after his violent death, which was so strikingly prophesied by Elijah years before. See I Kings, 22:38.

Ivory Palace of Ahab

On this Hill of Samaria Ahab built his ivory palace, which some historian has said was cedar-ceiled and vermilion-painted. It was here that Jezebel was allowed to establish the worship of



Photos by M. G. Geil.

A PRODUCTIVE MOUNTAINSIDE IN PALESTINE.
THE AUTHOR IN THE RUINS OF OLD SAMARIA.

Baal and Ashteroth. In connection with this, was the sacrifice of children to the god Moloch, which was a great human figure of bronze with a bull's head and outstretched arms.

This great image was hollow and a fire was built until the image was almost red hot. While drums were beaten to drown their cries, mothers would place their children in the outstretched arms of the great idol and they were quickly burned to death.

In later times, Herod had a palace at Samaria and many suppose it was here John the Baptist was beheaded. In the old Crusader church, which is now used for a Mohammedan school, is located the traditional tomb of the Baptist. This tomb is under the church and no doubt was a real sepulcher in the old days.

John the Baptist

Josephus, the Jewish historian, who lived a little later than the time the events occurred, states distinctly that John the Baptist was beheaded at Fort Machaerus, in the land of Moab just east of the Dead Sea, while early Christian tradition names Samaria as the place. I also visited the Shrine of John the Baptist in Damascus, as both native Christians and Mohammedans believe that his head was taken to Damascus and buried there.

Passing through the village in Samaria where the so-called tomb is located, I walked up to the great table-land on the top of the hill. Many ruins are seen on the top. The ground is very fertile and wheat was being harvested on the Hill of Samaria.

Going down on the opposite side, I soon came to the wonderful ruins at the Gate of Samaria. One of the very interesting Bible stories that came to

mind was the story of the lepers at the time of famine, which is found in the seventh chapter of II Kings. It was also at this place that Elisha lived when Naaman came to get his leprosy cured.

Greatest Ruins in Palestine

I know of no place in Palestine where there are such extensive ruins as at Samaria. A great colonnade, in which were two thousand and more great columns, ran entirely around the hill, and more than one hundred of them are standing today. About six miles from Samaria is the city of Nablus, which used to be called Shechem, and which is said to be the oldest city in Palestine. Here Abraham offered sacrifices when he and Lot first came from Haran to this land that we now call Palestine.

CHAPTER XI

The Samaritan Synagogue

TO CORRECTLY understand the Samaritan synagogue, we must go a little deeper into the history of the Samaritans. When the ten tribes of the Children of Israel in the north were carried into captivity never to return, some people, of course, were left behind.

The Assyrian king also sent colonists from his home country to settle and take care of this land he had captured from the Israelites. These Assyrian colonists naturally brought their own idolatrous worship with them.

These people intermarried with those left in Samaria, and in the course of time the races were about as badly mixed as their religions. At the same time these mixed people really classed themselves as Jews.

In the course of time, the two tribes in the south (Judea) were also carried into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, but after seventy years they returned to rebuild both the city of Jerusalem and the temple which had been destroyed.

Help of Samaritans Refused

When the returned Jews started to rebuild the temple, these Jewish people of Samaria courteously offered to help them, but the offer was spurned. This refusal was to signify that these brethern of the returned captivity disowned them and, of

course, this aroused all the indignation of the Samaritans.

Then it was that these Samaritans decided to build a temple of their own. The spot they chose was Mount Gerizim, and from that day until this the two factions have been at war with each other.

In the days of the Saviour, the lines were strictly drawn. When He talked with the woman at the well of Samaria and she saw that He was a teacher, she said, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say that in Jerusalem is the place of worship," thus bringing up the question that divided the Jews and Samaritans.

From Nablus, I went up to the old synagogue of the Samaritans, which is on Mount Gerizim. You have to go through long, narrow, cavelike streets and vaulted passages to get to this old synagogue, but when you reach it you have found an interesting spot.

Oldest Bible in the World

There are less than two hundred of these Samaritans left, and they are very poor. They have the oldest copy of the Pentatuch in existence. These manuscripts or scrolls were written only twelve years after the Children of Israel entered the promised land, if their story is true. This would make them around four thousand years old.

The manuscripts are pieces of parchment, yellow with age. They are rolled upon brass rods with silver knobs on each end. They can be rolled and unrolled as read. They are kept in a brass case, which is inlaid with gold and guarded as though they were the most valuable diamonds.

I talked with one of these priests and with the help of a guide understood some things he told

me. While very courteous, yet the old animosity he has for the Jews is noticeable.

These Samaritans observe the feasts of the Passover and Pentecost here on Mount Gerizim, and do all things like the Children of Israel did in the days of Moses and Aaron. They think the Jews are all wrong and that they are the only true Israelites.

Mounts of Blessing and Cursing

Nablus is at the west end of a valley between two mountains, that of Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. On account of some prophecies and later some events that occurred here, Mount Gerizim became known as the Mount of Blessings and Ebal the Mount of Cursings.

The strange thing about the place is that the acoustic properties of this valley are the most remarkable that can be found on earth. I was told again and again that friends could take their places on either side of this valley and talk to each other across it without any undue effort.

The Well of Jacob

At the east end of the valley is located Jacob's Well, where Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman. This is one of the most sacred spots in Palestine, for there is hardly a shadow of a doubt but this is the well dug by Jacob nearly four thousand years ago.

When I visited this well twenty years ago it was uncovered, but, of course, a wall was built around the garden in which it was located. Now a church is built over the well, which is but a stone's throw from the automobile highway.

The monk took a lighted candle and placed it in a receptacle so it would remain level and let it

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

JACOB'S WELL—NOW INSIDE OF A CHURCH.

down to the water, some sixty feet below, that I might see the entire wall.

They have tried to preserve the original stone at the top where Jesus sat, but it is now in such different surroundings from where I saw it before that I hardly know what to say about it.

The Tomb of Joseph

Not far from Jacob's Well is the Tomb of Joseph. You remember that when the Children of Israel left Egypt, they carried with them the bones of Joseph, and after the conquest of Canaan brought them here and buried them at the old home near the well where he played when but a little boy.

Standing here, we are really on the farm that was once owned by Abraham, later by Isaac and still later by Jacob. The fact that the Saviour of the world stopped here and rested after his long journey, makes the spot doubly interesting.

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

MODERN JERUSALEM SHOWING THE MOSQUE OF OMAR. TALL TOWER IN BACKGROUND IS ON MOUNT OF OLIVES.

CHAPTER XII

Going Up to Jerusalem

FROM Nablus to Jerusalem is perhaps thirty-five or forty miles by auto. This road is well paved and very smooth. It is well taken care of and many travelers throng it daily. Numerous automobiles, mostly carrying tourists, are seen, as well as caravans of camels, donkeys, carts and wagons and vehicles of all descriptions.

Much of the country is productive. Vineyards are on the terraced mountain sides, often reaching to the top. Olive trees, figs, almonds and many other varities of trees are found in places. Villages are frequent, but not generally on the highway.

Of course, there is much land that is completely covered with stones and seems almost worthless, yet shepherds with their flocks of sheep and goats roam over it. Nearly every foot of the land is historic, and it matters not which way one turns his head, he can see some place that has Biblical history connected with it.

An Island Commercial Center

Before leaving Nablus for good, I wish to call attention to the fact that it contains some thirty thousand people. It is an enterprising inland town and the chief commercial center between Damascus and Jerusalem.

The chief industry is soap making. While in the town years ago I was told that there were twenty-

seven soap factories in it. Of course, everything is done in the most primitive way. There is nothing modern about Nablus, even at this time. The best hotel is very ancient and primitive. I took a look into the kitchen, and found things were cleaner than I expected, however.

I had a fine little visit with the young man who waited upon me at the table. He spoke English quite well. It is his hope by day and dream by night to get to America and he thinks he will be able to do so in two years more.

Religiously, the people at Nablus are mostly Mohammedan and are quite fanatical. When I went through the streets at night, my Jewish companion kept hold of my hand saying that if we got separated we might never see each other again. That was years ago, but if all reports are true, conditions are not much better at this time.

Some Historic Incidents

Soon after leaving Nablus, the road enters the Plain of Shiloh where a ruin on a hill marks the place where the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenent rested for four hundred years.

When the news came that the Ark had fallen into the hands of the enemy, the old priest Eli, who was sitting by the side of the gate, was so startled that he fell off the seat backwards and broke his neck. Perhaps one of the old rock-cut sepulchers in the neighborhood was where his body was laid to rest.

The next place of great interest along this way is Bethel, where Jacob, lying with his head upon a stone for a pillow, had a wonderful dream of the ladder to heaven, which was immortalized in the song, "Nearer My God to Thee."

A "Lie" That Cost a Life

Here it was, too, that Jeroboam set up the altar and when he was all ready to offer sacrifice a nameless prophet appeared upon the scene and cursed the altar. When Jeroboam put out his hand to take hold of this man it became paralyzed.

Around the hill is where the old prophet lived who made up a lie that cost the young prophet his life. The whole story is recorded in the thirteenth chapter of I Kings.

There is near Shiloh a sunken court, four hundred feet long and seventy-five feet wide, which many think is where the tabernacle remained during all the years, according to a rabbinical tradition, says Dr. D. E. Lorenz.

Crossing a fertile and well cultivated plateau and down a wooded glen, a spring of water made an ideal camping place for travelers before the days of automobiles.

Robbers Fountain

The wild men of the desert often took advantage of the situation and robbed the travelers. This was done so much that this wild picturesque spot was named Robbers' Fountain.

Going on toward Jerusalem, the village of Bireh, the location of the ancient city of Beeroth, comes into view. Tradition connects this place with the first Passover attended by Jesus when he was twelve years of age.

According to the ancient story, it was here that Joseph and Mary first missed the lad from their company and went back to Jerusalem and found him in the temple among the doctors, both hearing

At the Gate of Modern Jerusalem. *Photo by Henry Wiederhold.*

them and asking them questions. The record says, "And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and His Answers."

There comes to mind a personal experience that shows how natural such an occurrence could be. When but a lad about twelve years of age, I accompanied father and mother on an excursion to a city something like a hundred miles distant from home.

It was a large excursion party and very many from the immediate neighborhood attended, all going on a special. All understood the time set for departure at night. In such a crowd friends soon were lost to each other. I was one who was lost from friends and did not see father and mother until they came through the train hunting their lost boy after the train had started home at night.

A Famous Tower

Nearing Jerusalem, the site of ancient Mizpah came into view. It was located on a hill and from the famous watch-tower commanded a wonderful view of the whole country, being on top of a hill which is nearly three thousand feet above the level of the sea.

Many things happened at Mizpah in the old days. Here the Children of Israel were summoned to decide what to do about the terrible crimes committed in and the rebellion of the tribe of Benjamin as recorded in the twentieth chapter of Judges.

Still later, Mizpah was the place where the people gathered to ratify the selection of Saul, whom Samuel had anointed as the first king of Israel. The body of Samuel was also buried here, as this was one of the three points where he regularly

Photos by Miss Breithaupt and John H. Hauberg.

THE STAR AND CRESCENT AT THE JAFFA GATE.
THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.
A MOB OF MOSLEMS AT THE JAFFA GATE.

judged Israel. This is only about five or six miles from Jerusalem.

An Aeroplane Base

Just over the mountain north of Jerusalem, the British are now constructing a great aeroplane base. There is a large tract of level land and they are doing a tremendous amount of work upon it. In a few years the city of Jerusalem will extend to this point, and, no doubt, one will be able to get on a trolley car at the Jaffa gate and in a few minutes ride to this suburb. Of course, there is no such thing as a trolley car about Jerusalem as yet.

From the top of Mount Scopus, we get our first glimpse of the City of the Great King! Twenty years ago this sight thrilled me. Situated on the top of Mount Moriah and Mount Zion, there are higher mountains on all sides, and the words of the psalmist at once comes to mind, "As the mountains are around about Jerusalem, so is the Lord round about His people from henceforth even forever."

Photos by Dr. Sunkle.

MOUNT CALVARY.
MARY'S FOUNTAIN.

SOLOMON'S QUARRIES.
MOUNT ZION.

ALL AT JERUSALEM.

CHAPTER XIII

On Mount Calvary

BEFORE entering Jerusalem, it is wise to stop just north of the Damascus Gate and visit what, to the writer, at least, is one of the most sacred spots in or about Jerusalem.

At the time of my first visit to this place, there were no buildings in the neighborhood and one could get the full significance of the place. Now, it is all built up and a highway built around the spot I wish to describe.

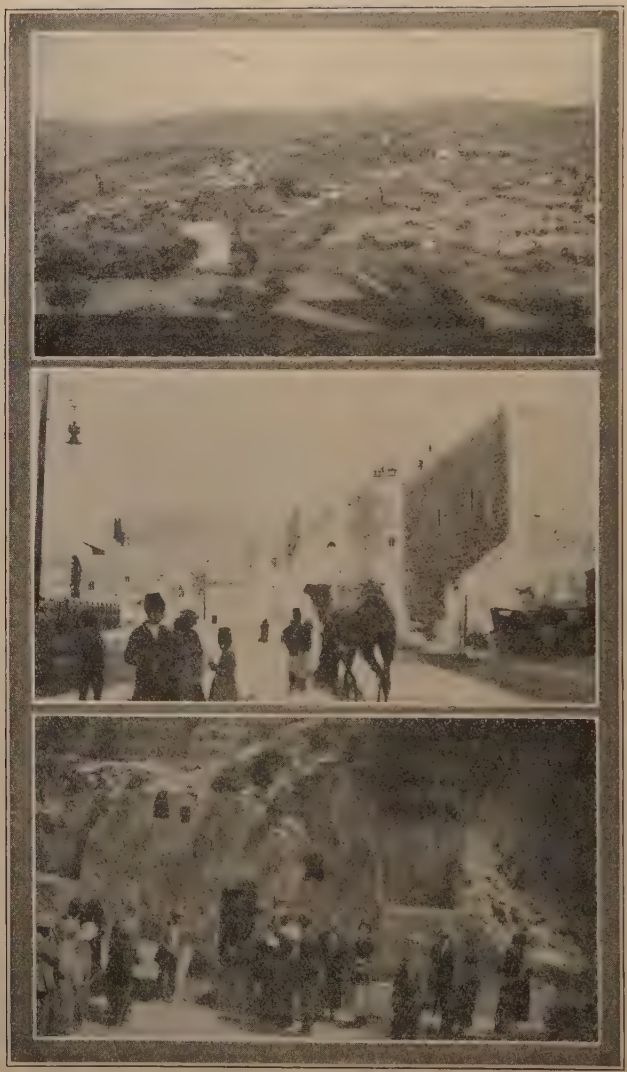
By the side of the ancient highway that led from the Damascus Gate is a remarkably shaped hill with rugged limestone cliffs. Before certain points were broken off, one could stand at a particular spot and see what looked to be a gigantic skull.

The Jews called this the "Hill of Execution," and when they were compelled to pass it would mutter the formula, "Cursed he He who destroyed our nation by aspiring to be its king."

The Place of a Skull

This place exactly fits the description given in such passages as "And they bring Him unto the place Golgotha, which is being interpreted the place of a skull;" "For the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city;" "Suffered without the gate," etc. This is undoubtedly the true Mount Calvary.

Turning to the record again, "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher wherein was man never



Photos by Miss Haller, Mr. Hauberg and Miss Breithaupt.

THE HILLS OF BETHLEHEM.
A STREET SCENE IN BETHLEHEM.
AT THE TOMB OF CHRIST.

yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews preparation day; for the sepulcher was nigh at hand."

It was General Gordon who discovered the tomb at the side of this Mount Calvary. It was filled up with the debris of centuries. When cleaned out it was found to be cut out of the solid rock.

In getting this tomb in shape, the workmen found an old wall and on tracing it discovered that it enclosed a garden. The wall butts up against the limestone hill and fits the Bible description to an exact nicety.

Visiting the Tomb of Christ

On my first visit to this tomb, a converted Jew was my guide. As we came to the tomb he called attention to the rolling stone at the door. They cut a groove along the bottom (the entire side of the stone being smooth and upright as though some giant had cut a smooth surface a dizen feet wide and nearly as high), and the rolling stone was something like a gigantic grindstone.

When this stone was in place and they wished to close the tomb, they rolled it up to the end and it was large enough to cover the opening. When they wished to open the tomb they "rolled the stone away," or to the other end of the groove, and the tomb was open.

Entering, this Jew next called attention to the fact that any Jew would know that it is a Jewish tomb, as they made them a little different from those of any other people. Next, that it was a rich man's tomb, etc.

Then, a very peculiar thing is that just above the door there is an opening through which one can

look from above. I was told that there is not another tomb with such an opening within twenty miles of Jerusalem.

The record states that when Peter and John ran to the tomb on the resurrection morning that John reached it first and saw the "linen clothes lying." These were the clothes in which the body was wrapped.

When Peter came up, he rushed into the tomb and saw not only the linen clothes, but in addition he saw "the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself." No wonder it is said, "And he saw and believed." No one ever had reason to doubt his faith after that hour.

The Bible Story Fits Tomb

To get the real significance of this statement, a more minute attention to details is necessary. In this particular tomb, the only completed receptacle for a body has what is called a "head cavity;" that is, the place for the head is back under a covering. From the outside, or the opening at the top through which it is likely John looked, it would be impossible to see anything but the linen clothes that were about the body.

It would be necessary, therefore, for one to go into the tomb to see the napkin that was about the head. It was just as though the body had slipped out of the burial clothes without disturbing them at all.

So far as is known, this is absolutely the only tomb in or about Jerusalem where the incidents which are so minutely and yet so graphically described by John's gospel and other references, could possibly have occurred.

Photos by Henry Wiederhold.

STREET SCENE IN JERUSALEM.
THE MOSQUE OF OMAR.
WOMEN BURDEN BEARERS IN JERUSALEM.

One Sacred Place in Hands of Protestants

This entire "Garden Tomb," as it is now called, is in the hands of Protestant people. The tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as well as another shown to visitors, are in the hands of the Greek and Roman Catholics, who have made these so-called sacred spots a source of great financial income to the respective churches.

On this account, the Catholic people, as well as many others, try very hard to discredit everything connected with the Garden Tomb. This is true to such an extent that no guide to sacred places is now allowed to enter the inclosure where the true tomb is located, as practically all of these guides are in the hands of the "powers that be," and who are determined to discredit all sacred spots that they do not own or at least control.

This entire area covers about three acres. Many great Bible scholars have visited this place and as one of them has said, "it presents strong and conclusive evidence of being the actual spot of the Crucifixion. It carries instant conviction even to critical and conservative minds." If the hill is Mount Calvary there is hardly a shadow of a doubt that this tomb is the actual spot where His body was laid.

Wonderful Stone Quarries of Solomon

In the same neighborhood, outside the city walls, can be seen Solomon's Quarries. With a lighted candle I went far down into these great caverns, which actually take one beneath the city. From here the great stones used in Solomon's Temple were quarried and drawn to the surface upon an inclined roadway.

Strange as it may seem, you can see how they used to hew out the stone and break them from the bed rock. The marks left by Phoenician workmen are found and the places where their lamps or torches were held are still to be seen. Not nearly all of these great caverns have been explored as yet. Not so long ago, great reservoirs that will hold millions of gallons of water were discovered beneath the city.

Jeremiah's Grotto and the Tombs of the Kings are also north of the city. The former is said to be where the prophet hid himself from the king who tried to destroy God's Word, and the latter are so large that a good-sized house could be let down in them. The great wide stone stairway, in which are twenty-four huge steps, is a colossal affair. The rock-cut court is nearly a hundred feet square. Receptacles were made for more than seventy bodies, and in some cases the rolling stones are in their grooves.

Photos by Miss Breithaupt.

WOMAN WITH WATER JAR.
WATER CARRIER IN JERUSALEM.

VIA DOLOROSA.
WOMAN MERCHANT.

CHAPTER XIV

The World's Most Sacred City

JERUSALEM has rightly been called the pilgrimage city of the world. To both the Christian and the Jew, it is the world's most sacred city and to the Mohammedans it is a second Mecca.

Located on the flat tops of two mountains, the valley between them has largely been filled until the great plateau covers a thousand acres or more. But the old city covered only something like three hundred acres of ground.

The walls around the old city are from thirty to a hundred feet high. It is only a little more than two miles around the old wall. But two-thirds of the sixty-two thousand, five hundred seventy-eight inhabitants of Jerusalem live without the city walls.

At the southeast wall of the city, which is ninety feet high, the excavators sunk a shaft to see how deep the foundation stones are. They dug almost ninety feet down before they came upon the foundation stones which date back to Solomon's time. On one of these stones they found the mason's marks, which proved to be Phoenician characters.

In I Kings, 5:18 we read: "And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them and the stonesquarers; so they prepared timber and stones to build the house." This Hiram was king of Tyre —in Phoenicia—and here almost a hundred feet below the ground and after three thousand years, we have a confirmation of the Scriptures.

Twelve Nations Have Owned Jerusalem

In all, Jerusalem has been in the hands of twelve different nations and the present city is built upon the ruins of other cities. In fact, some ancient pottery found in the bottom of a shaft sunk but a year ago by excavators, dates back to perhaps three thousand years B. C., so it is now believed that the foundations of the first city were laid five thousand years ago.

It is said that many of the streets of Jerusalem, upon which the Saviour trod, are now from twenty to sixty feet below the surface. I saw and walked upon the pavement of one of these streets about thirty feet below the street above. A remarkable thing about this pavement is that on the rock are the outlines of diagrams used by the Roman soldiers in a game they played. Only about the time of Christ did they play that particular game.

As mentioned in a preceding chapter, the Jews are coming back to Palestine in large numbers since the war. Seventy-five years ago, it is said, there were but thirty-two Jewish families in Jerusalem. Now there are thirty-three thousand, nine hundred seventy-one Jews in the city.

A Five Million Dollar University

There are said to be more than one hundred Jewish synagogues today in which worship is held on the Sabbath day and many of these services are well attended. Work has already begun on a five million dollar Hebrew University. It is to be on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem, and it will include a modern medical school and hospital.

There are but few American Jews in Palestine, for it must be remembered that America is about

the only country on earth where the Jew has not been persecuted, and American Jews are too well satisfied in their adopted country to ever go back to their home land.

It is said that forty different languages are spoken by the Jews of Palestine and many of them cannot understand each other. But, after all, they have held onto about the same manners and customs, and all dress about the same.

Perhaps the first place in the city to claim our attention, is the temple area on Mount Moriah. Geologists say that this and Mount Sinai are the two oldest spots on the globe.

Temple Area Covered Thirty-five Acres

This sacred area covers about thirty-five acres. It seems that the top of the rocky plateau was hewn down level where the rocks stuck up and filled up level, mostly by gigantic masonry work where it was lower.

I have visited more than once the vast caverns beneath that are called Solomon's Stables. The solid masonry built up beneath parts of this area is one of the marvelous sights of the city. There are acres of these great caverns, and, as mentioned elsewhere, only somewhat recently great reservoirs that would hold millions of gallons of water have been discovered.

Speaking of discoveries, it is hard to prophesy what the next few years will bring forth. For nearly a thousand years the Unspeakable Turk has had possession of the city, and, outside of the Kaiser's representatives, only a few others could get permission to stick a spade into the ground.

On the spot where the temple of Solomon used to stand, the Mohammedan Mosque of Omar now

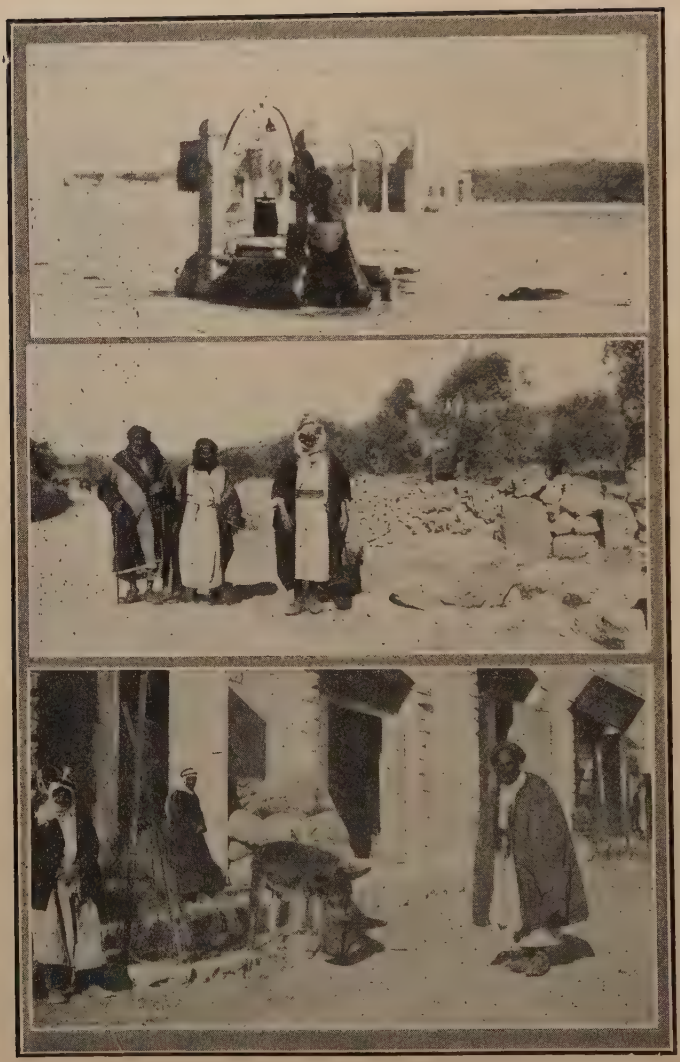


Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

UPPER—DRAWING WATER AT A WELL IN JERUSALEM.
CENTER—SCENE BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM.
LOWER—A PALESTINE VILLAGE OF TODAY.

stands. This fact is made certain by the Dome of the Rock. This great rock has been called the eighth wonder of the world. It is about sixty by forty feet and some six feet high, and was evidently the natural rock on the top of Mount Moriah.

The Jews believe that Adam was created on this spot; that Cain and Abel offered their sacrifices on it; that on this Noah erected his altar and that under the rock can yet be heard the waters of the deluge; that Abraham brought Isaac to this spot to offer him as a sacrifice; that the Ark of the Covenant was concealed and still lies under this rock. On one of my visits I was allowed to sound a spot with a cane and there must be a hollow beneath.

An Ancient Threshing Floor

All of the above is legend. Coming to the scripture story, there is but little doubt that this great rock was the Threshing Floor of Ornan, where David offered the sacrifice when the city on the other mount was saved, and later he selected it as the site for the temple afterwards built by his son, Solomon.

When the Romans under Titus destroyed the Jewish temple, they erected an altar to heathen gods on the spot. Next the Christians secured the place, but they were so set against the Jews that the place was desecrated and the Holy Place was made as a dung hill.

Then came the Caliph Omar, who cleansed the sacred site and erected a temple upon it. When this showed signs of decay, another building was erected. This was in 691 A. D. Something like a hundred and twenty years later, the building was greatly improved, and with the exception of vast

improvements from time to time, this same building is the one we see today.

On the southern part of this temple area in the sixth century was erected a magnificent Christian Cathedral which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. When the Mohammedans came, they converted this cathedral into a mosque and it is called Mosque El-Aksa and is said to be the largest individual structure in Jerusalem.

The Jews' Wailing Place

To give an accurate description of these great buildings would take a book in itself. But it is easy to see how this area is sacred to Christian, Jew and Mohammedan. To enter these sacred shrines, one must wear the large slippers provided by the attendants.

At the side of the temple area is the Jews' Wailing Place. When they had the temple it meant death to a Gentile who would enter the Holy Sanctuary. Now the Jew is not allowed to enter. He can go only to the wall and weep, repeating the Lamentations of Jeremiah and pray for the time when he will wrest the sacred temple from the enemies.

CHAPTER XV

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

THE most interesting place in Jerusalem to all Catholic people is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. It is a large structure and cost three million dollars. Some one has called it a religious museum, there being more than thirty so-called sacred spots within it.

This church is the hotbed of superstition. It makes one heartsick to see the ignorance and superstition displayed on every hand, and yet one cannot help being moved by the devotion of many of the worshippers.

Here they show you the place where He was crowned with thorns; the place where He was scourged; the rock upon which the cross was lifted and the very cavity into which it dropped. They show you a piece of the cross itself, the place where the Virgin Mary stood and the very spot where the centurion stood when he said, "This is the Son of God."

I saw well-dressed people get down and kiss the Stone of Unction, where they say his body laid. In fact this entire stone has been worn smooth by the lips of multiplied millions who have lavished their kisses upon it.

Many So-called Sacred Places

Under the great dome of the church is the so-called tomb of Christ. It is enclosed in a chapel of white marble. This is some twenty-five feet long,

twenty feet high and nearly as wide. The door is so low that one has to stoop to get in. Glass had to be put on the sacred marble slab to keep the kisses of the pilgrims from wearing the stone away.

A priest is always inside who sprinkles holy water upon the faithful and receives their gifts. As this tomb belongs to the Greek Catholic Church, by far the greater share of pilgrims are Russian. But I saw rich and poor from all nations entering the tomb.

Before the war, fifty to sixty thousand Russians came to Jerusalem every year. The value of their offerings was simply enormous. A life-sized image of the Virgin Mary in the church is covered with diamonds and jewels. It is made of wax and dressed in the finest silk. On the wax fingers are many diamond rings, all gifts from the faithful.

On the lap of this image lies a great heart made of pure gold and studded with diamonds. This was a gift from Emperor Josef of Austria, who it is said poured wealth into this church.

The Wealth of a Kingdom

With a few others, I was permitted to see some of the riches of this church. It is said that these treasures are scarcely ever shown, except at Easter time. I never expect to see again so many priceless jewels, precious stones and diadems. The vestments alone are worth a kingdom.

The Roman Catholics, Armenians, Abyssinians and others as well, have chapels in this church. All are fanatical and armed soldiers have to be there night and day to keep them apart. Only last Easter, three Coptic priests blocked the way of some Roman Catholic priests. They were arrested at once,

and at this writing have not been released from prison.

Mr. Carpenter says that some time ago a gigantic candle was sent to Jerusalem for the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. It was nine feet high, two feet thick, and looked like a real candle. It was supposed to have been lighted while the Easter service was in progress and when many thousands of people of all kinds were there.

A Candle Filled With Dynamite

When the shipment arrived at Jaffa, it was held for duty by the customs officers, who sent word for the priests to come and get it. For some reason they did not go after it and it was cut open at Jaffa. To the unbounded astonishment of all, it had five thousand little dynamite balls inside.

Had this exploded during the Easter service when the church was filled with ten thousand worshippers, the result would have been worse than at the church in Paris when the German shell struck it on Easter Sunday.

The Greek church is divided into factions and they have trouble among themselves. They are the most powerful church organization in Palestine, holding property worth many millions of dollars. They have monasteries, convents and hospices scattered all over the land.

Carpenter further says: "Some of the places are so valuable that the priests in charge are said to pay a lump sum of a thousand dollars a year or more for the privilege of presiding in them, expecting to recoup themselves from the gifts of the pilgrims. Here in Jerusalem, there are thirty-five Greek monasteries and other buildings managed by six hundred monks."

Largest Hotel in the World

Northwest of Jerusalem in the outskirts of the city, the Greek church people have vast property interests. Many of the buildings are now used by the English military authorities. The great hospice has been spoken of as the largest hotel in the world. As many as ten thousand people have been accommodated at one time. The hospice as a whole is said to cover ten acres of ground, and is surrounded by a high wall. This was used almost wholly for the Russian pilgrims.

While speaking of this great hospice, I will mention one of the most enjoyable evenings I spent in Jerusalem. It was at the American colony, which is in this neighborhood. The evening was spent in singing and social service. Refreshments were served and all had a general good time.

The American Colony in Jerusalem

This American Colony was founded by Dr. Spafford, whose talented daughter is one of the chief lights in it at the present time. The Spaffords were well-to-do people, members of the Presbyterian church in Chicago. In the year 1881 they with more than a dozen other people, moved to Jerusalem, intending to spend their time and money in Christian work in the Holy Land. The story of Mr. and Mrs. Spafford and their children being shipwrecked and their three children drowned and the vow they made together to devote their lives to Christian work if they were saved is a most wonderful story. Their going to Jerusalem to live later on was the outcome of that vow.

During the years, these people have been joined by others from Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Pennsyl-

TOMBS ON HILLSIDE NEAR JERUSALEM.

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

Photos by H. C. Heckerman and M. G. Geil.

PLACE OF THE STONING OF STEPHEN.
STATION ON THE VIA DOLOROSA.

vania and New England. They first had all things in common, but soon found that they must have a regular income and established the American Colony stores in Jerusalem, just inside the Jaffa Gate.

This is the only one-price store I saw in Palestine and where you will be told the truth. This colony also has a bakery and shoe shop as well as an art school. The membership of the colony is about eighty. The married folks live in separate apartments, but all eat at the same table, with worship both morning and evening.

I never saw a more accomplished or happier lot of people. They take the Bible as it reads and try to live up to the Golden Rule. The Y. M. C. A. secretary in Jerusalem told me that this American Colony is doing an immense amount of good and practices real Christianity. I found that they have guest apartments and take Christian people in at less than regular hotel rates, and often refuse to take anything from missionaries and Christian workers.

Photos by M. G. Geil.

UPPER—ABSALOM'S PILLAR NEAR WALL OF JERUSALEM.
LOWER—THE GOLDEN GATE OF JERUSALEM—IT IS WALLED UP TODAY.

CHAPTER XVI

Interesting Places Around Jerusalem

THIS book gives only some bird's-eye glimpses of the Holy Land and many interesting places are not even mentioned. This chapter will give some idea of the variety of interesting spots in and around the city of the Great King.

On a Sunday morning I left the hotel at seven-fifteen, and first went to a holy communion service at a Greek-Arabic church. The music was a sort of a chant and there was no preaching service. All the people stood throughout the service. Women went around kissing pictures, altars, and even the priests.

Next I hurried to a service at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This church was filled with worshippers. All classes, races, conditions and colors of folks were there. Each of the seven sects were having their own services in their respective chapels. In some of these the service lasted two hours but I stayed only half an hour.

Oldest Protestant Church in Jerusalem

Next, was a Sunday School at Christ Church, which is just opposite the Tower of David. This is the oldest Protestant church in Jerusalem, and theirs is the first Protestant church building erected in the Near East. The Sunday School was for Jewish children.

The next stop was at the American Protestant church outside the city wall near the Russian

Hospice. The Sunday School was held in Arabic, except an English Bible class. Following the Sunday School, the minister, Reverend E. O. Jago from Ohio, preached a splendid sermon on the character of Samson.

At four in the afternoon it was my pleasure to speak at the Y. M. C. A. The American Consul presided, the music was excellent, the room packed and the service was enjoyable, for the speaker at least. Tea was served immediately following.

At six o'clock I went to Christ Church for the English service. It was largely the Episcopal service. The sermon by the regular minister was on the character of Solomon and the last words of the Apostle Paul. The audience was fairly large. From eight-thirty to ten-thirty, at the American Colony Service mentioned in the last chapter.

The Upper Room

A very interesting place is the Upper Room where the Last Supper is said to have been held. The room is a portion of an old mediaeval church. The ceiling is vaulted. The stone upon which the disciples sat while Jesus washed their feet is pointed out, as are other relics. Perhaps none of these things are more than a few hundred years old. This is attached to the Tomb of David.

It is interesting to note that when the Master sent the two disciples to find the guest chamber where He was to eat the Passover, He told them to go into the city and they would meet a man bearing a pitcher of water. Now, to carry water was woman's work, and it was so uncommon to see a man with a pitcher of water that they were sure to see him.

The houses of Jerusalem practically all have flat tops. A wall a couple of feet high runs around the edge to keep people from falling off. The largest and best rooms are usually on the housetop and the guest chamber is always there. So the guest chamber where the Passover was celebrated and the Lord's Supper instituted was an upper room.

The Church of the Redeemer is a German Lutheran Church that was dedicated with great pomp by the former German Emperor when he visited the city in 1898. It is tiresome to go up the steps to the top of the tower, but from this the view is perhaps the best in the city.

Lord's Prayer in Many Languages

Speaking of churches, reminds me of the "Church of the Lord's Prayer" on the side of the Mount of Olives. Here the Lord's prayer is inscribed in thirty-two different languages. The Carmelite nunnery, which is a part of it, is said to be erected over the spot where tradition says Christ taught this prayer to his disciples. In this nunnery the nuns have so divided the time that one is always praying, so that in this building every hour, day and night, all the year around, some one is praying.

It is said that each nun digs her own grave, and, when she is about to die, her one desire is to be dressed in a shroud and carried into the church so she will die where she has prayed so long and earnestly.

The Garden of Gethsemane

The Garden of Gethsemane is not far from this church. There is little doubt but this is the true site; the old olive trees in the garden are hundreds

Photos by John H. Hauberg and Henry Wiederhold.

REPUTED SITE OF THE PALACE OF CAIAPHAS.
THE MOUNTAIN OF OLIVES.
THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE—PRIEST STANDING BY THE TREE OF AGONY.

of years old and perhaps are sprouts from the trees that were there when Jesus lived.

The garden has a high wall around it and covers less than two acres of ground. A magnificent church has just been erected at the south end. The historic olive tree that is pointed out as the one under which Jesus prayed, is not more than twenty or thirty feet from the church.

The Grotto of the Agony is not far from the garden and near it the so-called Virgin's Tomb. Going down a long flight of stairs you see a lot of underground chapels and tombs, shrines and so-called sacred relics.

On the east, between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, is the Kidron Valley and the Garden of Gethsemane is just across it on the western slope of Olivet.

Absalom's Pillar

Going down this valley you pass large cemeteries and Absalom's Pillar and the tombs of Saint James, Zachariah, and many noted Bible men.

South of Jerusalem, is the Valley of Hinnom and at the junction where the two valleys meet are many interesting places.

Here is Isaiah's Tree, so-called. In the old days men were sometimes executed by being placed in the hollow of a tree and then sawn asunder. Tradition says that Isaiah was so executed on this spot.

The miserable little village of Siloam is near, as is the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus sent the blind man to wash his eyes.

The water in this pool comes from a spring called the Virgin's Fountain far away, by means of an underground tunnel almost a mile long.

Pool of Siloam

In the old days the Pool of Siloam was within the city walls and one of the acts of Hezekiah was to make a conduit to bring the water into the city.

Some years ago an inscription on the side of the rock in the pool itself was discovered, which proved to be an account of boring this tunnel. The inscription was in the ancient Hebrew of Isaiah's time; he lived during the reign of Hezekiah.

Speaking of pools, reminds me of one in the city called the Pool of Bethesda, which is mentioned in Saint John 5:2, as having five porches. A recent excavation shows that it was eighty feet deep and covers an acre.

At the entrance to this pool the story of the lame man's cure is written in more than ninety languages, so anyone who can read at all can find the story in his own language.

CHAPTER XVII

Jericho, the Dead Sea and Jordan

ONE of the great surprises of Palestine today is the wonderful system of highways. It must have cost many thousand dollars to build the automobile road from Jerusalem to Jericho. It is perhaps twenty-five or thirty miles long, and the way it winds around down the mountain side almost makes one hold his breath at times.

Leaving Jerusalem, the road crosses the Kidron near the Garden of Gethsemane, skirts around the Mount of Olives, passes Bethany and the site of Bethphage, passes the Apostles Spring where you always see shepherds watering their flocks, through Robbers' Valley and past the Samaritan Inn, (people are robbed at the latter place today rather than the former), and on down, down into the Jordan Valley, which has been called the "cellar of the world."

Jericho is really the hottest city on earth where people live. The old saying, "Go to Jericho," is very expressive when you really understand it. The modern Jericho does not amount to much. It is practically kept alive by the great fountain of pure water, which makes an oasis on the desert.

Water Supply Cleansed

This is undoubtedly the fountain which was cleansed by the prophet Elisha shortly after the translation of Elijah to the better world.

Photos by John H. Hauberg and Miss Breithaupt.

THE DEAD SEA.
ROBBERS VALLEY ON WAY FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO.
APOSTLES' WELL ON WAY FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO.

We are especially interested in the old city of Jericho, which dates back to Bible times. Some of the ruins have been uncovered quite recently.

The city of Jericho in Joshua's time was not a large city. You can see much of it at the present time. It was surrounded by walls which were strong towers.

In the ruins, you can see the old mill they used for grinding, jars in which they carried water, jugs with their clay stoppers, pottery covered with a light colored glaze, and many other age-old relics.

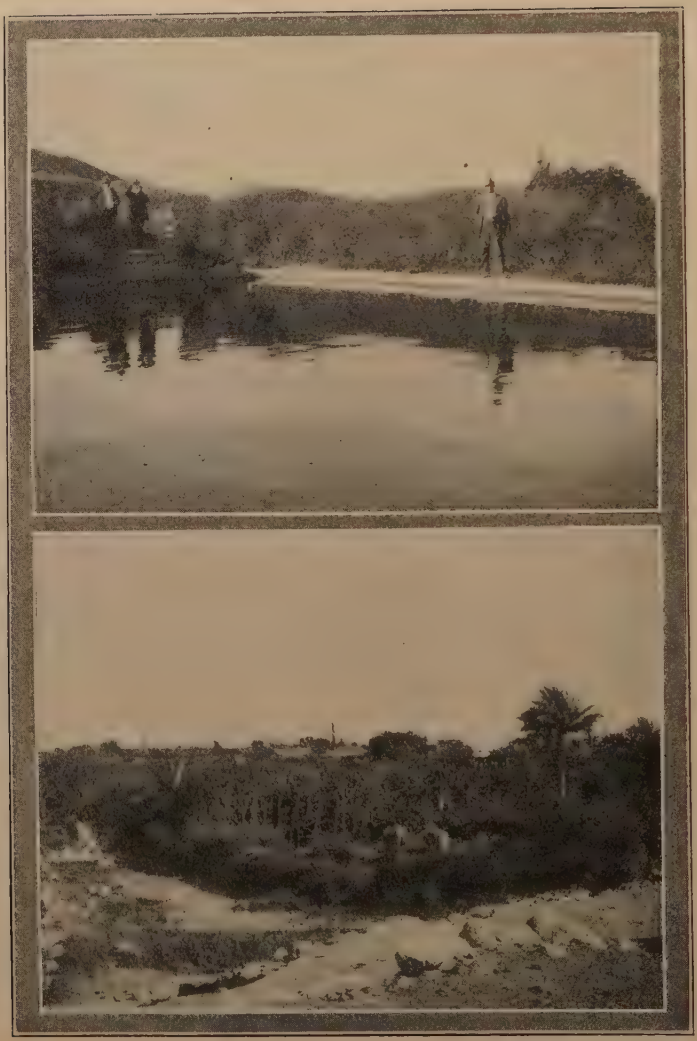
In this city lived Rahab, the woman who kept a boarding house and assisted the spies to get away. She hid them under stalks of flax and later let them down on the outside of the wall with a rope, but made them promise to spare her household when the city was taken.

When the Israelites came marching around Jericho, Rahab placed a scarlet thread or cloth in her window, according to the arrangements made with the spies, and when the walls fell and the city was taken, Rahab and her household were saved. Afterwards she married one of the princes of Judan and through her line came King David and the family of our Lord.

Zaccheus Climbed a Sycamore Tree

The Jericho of Jesus' day was the second city by that name, and it was honored with several visits of the Lord. On one of these occasions, Jesus surprised His own disciples by calling Zaccheus, the tax collector, from a sycamore tree and went home with him to dinner.

The last visit of Jesus to Jericho was a great day for blind Bartimaeus, the beggar. He had heard of



Photos by M. G. Geil.

AT ELISHA'S FOUNTAIN AND THE RUINS OF ANCIENT JERICHO.

Jesus and made up his mind that if he ever came to Jericho nothing could keep him from rushing to him; his faith was rewarded.

This second Jericho must have been an important city for it was surrounded with palm trees, and was the winter home of Herod for he had a palace there and died in it, according to the best accounts obtainable.

The Dead Sea is one of the most remarkable bodies of water on the globe, being about thirteen hundred feet below the level of the Mediterranean, which is but about fifty miles away. It is about forty-seven miles long and from three to nine miles wide.

Dead Sea Water Salty

Nothing can live in the waters of the Dead Sea, for they contain five times as much salt as the salt waters of the ocean. Fish that are swept down by the waters of the Jordan die as soon as they get into these deadly waters.

Twenty years ago I had a swim in the Dead Sea, and the other month I sat in an automobile and laughed at others who had the experience for the first time.

As mentioned in another chapter, there are salt works on the banks of the Dead Sea, but I did not learn as to the success of the industry.

Between the seas of life and death, Galilee on the north and the Dead Sea on the south, runs the Jordan river, and although it is hardly as long as the Amazon is wide at its mouth, yet it is the most famous river on earth.

Photos by Dr. Sunkle.

UPPER—THE RIVER JORDAN WHERE THE ISRAELITES CROSSED INTO CANAAN.

CENTER—FOUNTAIN OF ELISHA AT JERICHO.

LOWER—BEDOUINS OF THE PLAINS OF THE JORDAN.

A World Famous River

The Jordan never had a city of any size upon its banks. It never had a boat of any size upon its waters. Until recently, it never had a bridge across it. Now there is a foot bridge just south of the Sea of Galilee, a railroad bridge across it a few miles further south and a toll bridge about a dozen miles north of the Dead Sea.

The river is so shallow that it can be easily forded and the bridges, except the railroad bridge, are hardly necessary, except when the river is high. It is in a valley within a valley, and when it overflows it covers only the inner valley which is a half mile wide at various points.

It was during the time of overflow when its waters parted for the Children of Israel to cross, and it was this fact that so completely took the people by surprise at the time they felt safest.

Great Events Recalled

The fords of the Jordan, nearly opposite Jericho, call to mind many great historical incidents. It was here the Israelites crossed under the leadership of Joshua; here, Elijah smote the waters with his mantle and they parted so that he and Elisha crossed, and later, when Elisha crossed alone, it was at this same spot.

It was near this place that Elisha made the ax to swim which the young man had borrowed, and was so worried because it as lost in the river.

But the greatest event that occurred at this spot was the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and when from heaven came not only the Spirit of God descending upon Him, but also the voice from

THRESHING FLOOR NEAR BETHANY. *Photo by Miss Maude Parsons.*

heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

On one side of this spot back in the distance stands old Mount Nebo, from which Moses looked over Canaan, and on the other side is the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus had the struggle with the Devil and put him to flight.

Going back to Jerusalem, I halted at Bethany and went down into the tomb from which Lazarus came forth at the call of Jesus, and the site of the home at which the Master so often stopped.

Photos by Dr. Sunkle.

UPPER—PALESTINE WOMEN DRAWING WATER.

CENTER—VALLEY OF HINNOM AND POOL OF LOWER GIHON NEAR JERUSALEM.

LOWER—A SCENE IN BETHLEHEM.

CHAPTER XVIII

Bethlehem and Hebron

BETHLEHEM is but a half dozen miles south of Jerusalem. One of the best highways in Palestine is between these two cities. It is well macadamized with hard limestone. I saw this highway in the making. Women pounded most of the rock. A limestone wall is on either side of the highway a good share of the distance. The stone is almost chalk white and dust is always in the air.

There are many little fields between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Olive and fig orchards abound. Wherever soil is found it is fertile; grain or almost anything will grow. The great lack is moisture. Perhaps the time will come when this country will be again irrigated, as it was in the days of Solomon. If so, it will produce in great abundance.

I never saw such grapes grow anywhere as in Palestine. On the side of a rock-covered mountain you will see a grape vineyard. The vines almost cover the rocks and great bunches of grapes hang between the rocks, some of them as large as a small bucket.

An Ancient Highway

Every foot of the ground in this neighborhood is historic. Abraham went over these hills until he was footsore. It was on yonder mountain in the city, Mount Moriah, that he went to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

THE TOMB OF RACHEL AS IT APPEARS TODAY. *Photo by Henry Wiederhold.*

Jacob and his descendants often traveled this way. David was born near by, and in the valley some distance away had the struggle with Goliath. On these hills he kept his father's sheep and learned to play the harp. He also studied the stars and later wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

In the fields yonder, the wonderful story of Ruth had its setting. It was on the side of the hill that the shepherds were watching their flocks when the angel appeared saying, "Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

It was over these hills that the "wise men from the East" came looking for the new-born king! Now we are passing Rachel's Tomb, which is but a mile away from the city, and here the sound of the weeping mothers was heard when Herod slew their new-born sons!

The City of Bethlehem

The city of Bethlehem contains less than ten thousand people. It has always been a small city, but at that is one of the cleanest in Palestine. Its women are good looking and they are always smiling. It is perhaps more blessed to live in Bethlehem than in any other city in Palestine.

The great sight in Bethlehem is the Church of the Nativity. It is the oldest church in the world which has been continually used for Christian worship. It was built nearly sixteen hundred years ago.

Of course, I again went down into the grotto below and saw the star that is said to mark the place

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

WELL OF THE MAGI BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM.

where Jesus was born! Many candles are burning around it continually Near by is the manger cradle which was cut from the solid rock. There are many other caverns beneath the building and many interesting stories and traditions are told concerning them.

Pools of Solomon

Not far from Bethlehem on the way to Hebron are the Pools of Solomon. There are three of these reservoirs and they will hold forty millions of gallons of water. They are fed by great springs up in the mountains, and in the days of Solomon gave Jerusalem its water system.

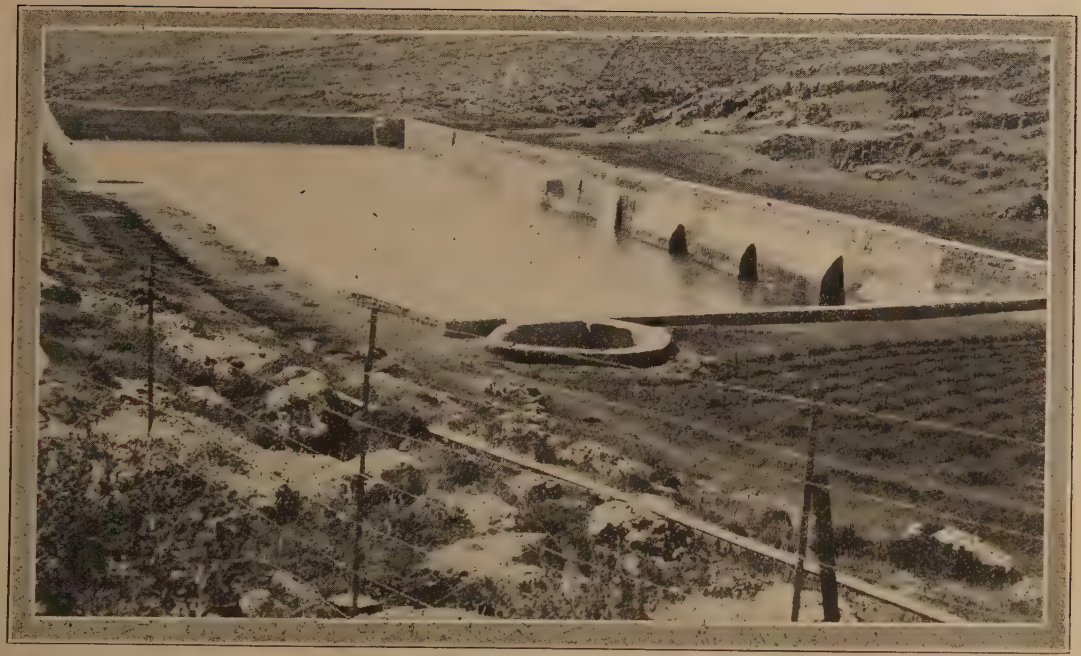
Remains of the old conduit and aqueduct can be seen today. The pipe was constructed of stones, matched and laid together with a sort of mortar. The hole made in them through which the water flowed was fifteen inches in diameter.

The British have partly restored this water system, only the iron pipe now used is much smaller. The water supply of Jerusalem is still inadequate and water is expensive. The proprietor of the Hotel Allenby told me that his water bill is one hundred fifty dollars per month.

Continuing from Solomon's Pools toward the city of Hebron, the road passes a spring at which many believe that Philip baptized the eunuch, as recorded in the eighth chapter of the Acts. In ancient times a Christian church was located at the spring but it is not there today.

Many Notables Called Hebron Home

Hebron is one of the old cities in Palestine. The names of Abraham, Sarah, Joshua, Caleb, Abner,



ONE OF SOLOMON'S POOLS WHICH FURNISHED WATER SUPPLY FOR JERUSALEM. *Photo by Maude Parsons.*

David, Absalom, Rehoboam and others are associated with it. It contains nearly twenty thousand people, nearly all of whom are Moslems.

The people of Hebron are very fanatical. They are filthy, bigoted, and behind any other city in Palestine in progress. Some of the streets are dark, filthy tunnels; it almost makes one sick to go through them. The chief work is that of tanning goat skins, making waterbags, pottery and glass. Before the war there were thirty glass furnaces in operation, but now not more than half a dozen are in use.

The chief place of interest is the Cave of Machpelah. I had a man trying for a week in Jerusalem to get permission to allow me to visit this cave, but all efforts were in vain. After the war it was opened for visitors at times, but is now closed most of the time.

Pool of Hebron

Another interesting place is the Pool of Hebron It is a large, square stone receiver, about one hundred and thirty feet each way. Here Rechab and Baanah, the murderers of Ishbosheth, were hanged by David, as recorded in the fourth chapter of II Samuel.

About a mile from Hebron is the famous Abraham's Oak at Mamre, beneath which it is said that Abraham pitched his tent. While the tree is very large, thirty-two feet in circumference, and very old, yet I could not believe it to be anything like four thousand years old.

I also visited the ruins of a wonderful old building about half a mile from the road. Some of the stones are very massive; it is said to be on the site of the home of Abraham. Here, too, are some of

the greatest vineyards in all Palestine. It is the Valley of Eshcol, where the spies secured the large bunches of grapes which they carried back to camp when they were sent by Moses to spy out the land.

CHAPTER XIX

The Lure of Egypt

I HAVE visited Egypt four times, and really it is more interesting each time. Alexandria is spoken of as the Front Door of Egypt and I first went in that way. Port Said is the Back Door and my second visit was from that way. Then entering the Red Sea at the east I traveled twelve hundred miles on this sea, passing Mount Sinai and the place where the Children of Israel crossed, then to the Suez Canal and by train across Goshen to Cairo.

Recently, I came down from Palestine on the railroad the English built during the war. For more than a hundred miles the road is along the pipe line through which the waters of the river Nile flow into Palestine, as mentioned in a former chapter. Then across the Suez Canal at Kantura and on to Cairo.

Cairo contains nearly eight hundred thousand people and is a little world. It has been called the most attractive city on earth for tourists. Its million dollars hotels, its delightful climate, its ancient wonders, its modern improvements, all make it a fascinating city, to say the least.

Beggars and Flies

But it has its drawbacks. Parts of Cairo are dirty and foul-smelling. The plague of flies and lice has never ceased. Its beggars are the most persistent, its guides the most bigoted, and its

Photos by John H. Hauberg and Miss Breithaupt.

A WEDDING PROCESSION IN EGYPT.
IN OLD THEBES WHERE BRICKS WERE MADE WITHOUT STRAW.
OUR COMPANY OF TRAVELERS AT LUXOR.

traders the most conscienceless that can be found.

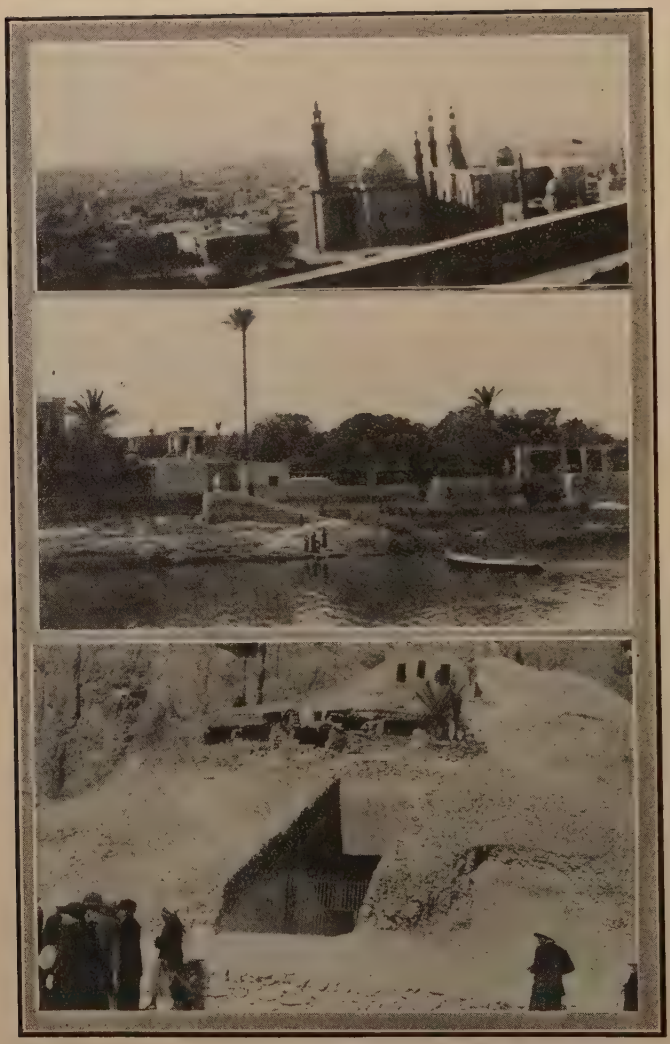
The people of Cairo are mostly Moslems. It is said there are four hundred mosques in the city. Some of them, like the Citadel, are wonderful, for this great building is made of alabaster. For years the largest university in the world, from the standpoint of number of students, was in Cairo.

In and around Cairo you see six thousand years of history every day. The oldest and the newest are side by side. This is true in manners, customs, dress, transportation, farming, irrigating, home life, and methods of work.

In the great Museum in Cairo you can also see six thousand years of history in the same room. You see the mummies of Pharoah, who oppressed the Israelites, and many other dignitaries of the old days. You see very many of the treasures that have so recently been taken from the Tomb of King Tut, after having been hidden away in the darkness for more than three thousand years.

The City of the Sun

Like Palestine, Egypt has many so-called sacred places. They show you the tree under which the Virgin and the Holy Child rested some time. This is at Heliopolis which was the "On" of Egypt where Joseph married the daughter of a priest (Gen. 41:45). The obelisk that stands in Central Park New York was taken from Heliopolis. One obelisk still stands in the neighborhood. This is said to be the oldest obelisk in Egypt today. It is a block of red granite sixty-six feet high. The picture of the man plowing was taken less than one hundred feet from this obelisk.



Photos by Curtis Glick and Henry Wiederhold.

UPPER—A MOHAMMEDAN MOSQUE IN CAIRO.

CENTER—TRADITIONAL SPOT IN THE RIVER NILE WHERE PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER FOUND MOSES.

LOWER—THE OPENING AT THE TOMB OF KING TUTENKHAMEN WHERE SO MANY TREASURES WERE FOUND.

In the city of Cairo, I visited the cave where it is said that the Holy Family lived for some time. It is in or beneath a Coptic church, and the surroundings are about as filthy as can be imagined. I saw the exact spot (?) where Moses was found in the bullrushes by the daughter of Pharoah, saw what is left of the storehouses where Joseph stored up the grain to be used during the years of famine. I actually handled some of the bricks that were made without straw by the Israelites, if the guide told the truth. One thing is unquestioned, however, and that is I saw many of the same monuments and inscriptions that Abraham looked upon when he palmed off his wife as his sister and got into trouble about it.

Sphinx and Pyramids

I saw many of the same inscriptions that were familiar to Moses when he was in the schools of Egypt. Also, that most aged of all relics of human workmanship, the Sphinx, whose staring stone eyes had watched the sun rise for thousands of years when Abraham was born.

Perhaps the greatest of all sights to most people is the Pyramid of Cheops, which covers thirteen acres of ground and is four hundred and fifty feet high. This great pile of stone is but a dozen miles west of Cairo. Twenty years ago most of the country between this Pyramid and Cairo was desert. Now it is one vast field of alfalfa, waving grain, wheat, barley, cotton and vegetable gardens in which are not only leek, onions and garlic, as in the days of old, but melons and all such as well.

While a trolley line will take you to within a quarter of a mile of the big pyramid, an automobile will take you within fifty feet of its base. It is up

Photos by Theodore Smith and Paul Boyd.

VIEWS OF THE SPHINX WHICH IS SAID TO BE THE OLDEST RELIC OF HUMAN WORKMANSHIP IN EXISTENCE—GREAT PYRAMID IN THE DISTANCE. .

on a high elevation. It is just one layer of massive stone upon another, each layer smaller than the one upon which it rests. It is a marvelous sight, although disappointing to most people at first. But it grows on one and the more often one sees it the more wonderful it seems.

A Multitude of Toilers

Herodotus, the father of history, says that one hundred thousand men toiled for twenty years on this one pyramid. It took ten years to build the great causeway from the quarry to the place the pyramid is located. These ancient people either had ways of moving and lifting great masses of stone that we have not discovered, or else every stone in the structure might be called a stone of sorrow, because of the broken backs and crushed bodies it cost.

It is known that at least three of the arts in which the Egyptians were skilled have been lost. The first is the art of embalming the bodies of the dead. Second is the coloring with vegetable dyes. I have seen many paintings in the tombs of the kings which were made more than three thousand years ago, and the colors were just as bright and sharp as though they were made but last week. Third, it seems almost beyond question that these ancient Egyptians had some secret way of prolonging human life to the extent that a man could live two hundred years and more.

A Valuable Art Lost

This secret of prolonging life if by far the greatest of all lost arts, and were it not for the fact that the Egyptians actually knew how to do some

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

EGYPT SHAWL MERCHANTS DISPLAYING THEIR GOODS.

things that no other nation has ever discovered, it would be unbelievable. It is possible that they had many other secrets that are among the lost arts, but these at least seem to have been lost when the great Alexandrian library was destroyed.

It was about 640 A. D. that the Moslems came into Egypt and undertook to destroy all books that did not agree with the Koran. This great Alexandrian library furnished fuel for four thousand baths for six months, so we are told.

I may say, in passing, that Rameses II was by far the most famous of all Egyptian kings. He reigned for sixty-seven years and built half of the temples in Egypt. I have listened for hours to the story of his exploits, as the guide translated the inscriptions and hieroglyphics on the pillars and walls of some of the massive temples.

These writings represent this king as holding up his enemies by the hair as he destroyed them, after which he is represented as offering sacrifices to his god. For generations there was was between Egypt and surrounding nations, the victories of which are on the monuments today. Bible events, such as the enslaving of the Israelites, are on these monuments.

Into the Center of the Pyramid

About forty-five feet from the ground on one side of the big pyramid is an opening and a small tunnel descends to the center far below the bottom of the structure. About one hundred and twenty-five feet from the opening the tunnel forks and one division goes up into the heart of the pyramid. I crawled up this tunnel about one hundred and thirty feet and found myself at the entrance of the

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

THE LITTLE SPHINX AT MEMPHIS.

Great Hall which is a hundred and fifty feet long and twenty-eight feet high. Then twenty-two feet through a narrow passage and I was in the King's Chamber. This is thirty-five feet long, half as wide and nineteen feet high. Above this are five chambers and to this day no one knows what use was made of them.

In the King's Chamber is a red granite sarcophagus, seven and a half feet long and nearly half as wide and deep. The lid is gone and there are no inscriptions in sight. This chamber is in the center of the pyramid. The Queen's Chamber is nearly a hundred feet below this, a tunnel reaching from the Grand Hall to it. The passage is very difficult. All told, there are more than seventy pyramids in Egypt, all but three being up the river Nile some distance.

I spent a day at Memphis and Sakarah, fourteen miles south of Cairo, visiting the pyramids, monuments and tombs at these places. The most interesting tomb is that of King Thi, who lived long before Abraham. This king was of humble origin but his statute is in the museum at Cairo. In the tomb are inscriptions and hieroglyphics, rock-cut receptacles for treasures and jewels that were buried with him. The Apis Tombs, or Tombs of the Bulls, are very interesting, as are a hundred other things.

A White Walled City

Memphis is one of the oldest cities in Egypt. It is said that the founder changed the channel of the river Nile to get a site that suited him. It was called the "White Walled City," rivaling Babylon for magnificence and beauty, if we can believe the

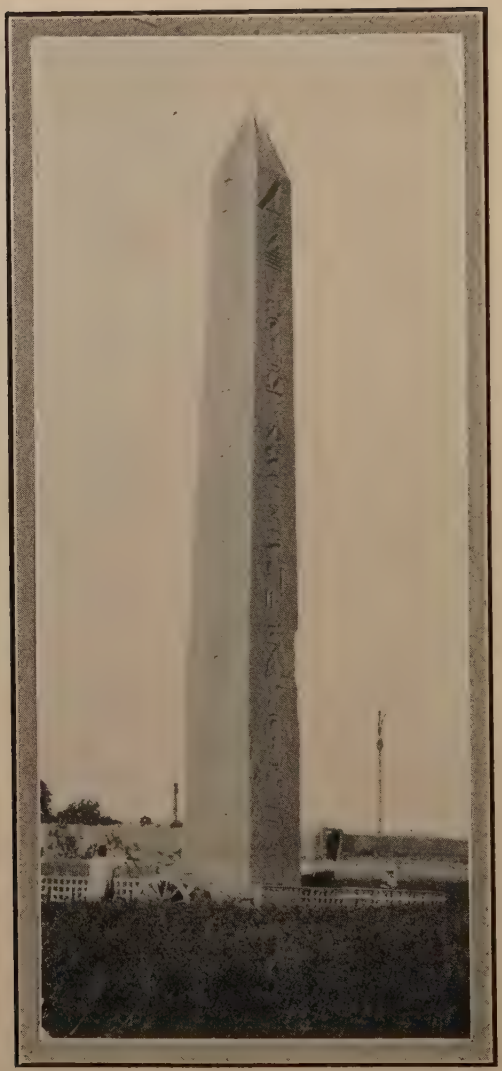


Photo by Curtis M. Glick.

SAID TO BE THE OLDEST OBELISK IN EGYPT.
ON THE BORDERLINE OF THE LAND OF GOSHEN.

old records. The great colossal statutes of Rameses II, lying on the ground, are both interesting and wonderful. That you may have an idea of what these are like, I am publishing a picture of one of them.

Hundreds of books have been written describing Egypt, and yet not nearly all has been told, so one hardly gets started in a single article. The population at present is about fourteen millions. These people all live from the products of a narrow strip of land along the Nile. Great irrigation works make life possible. But the population is increasing very rapidly and it is said that the most gigantic irrigation scheme that has ever been worked out by human brain has already been started and when completed it will so increase the products that twenty million people can be cared for.

RAMESES STATUTE AT MEMPHIS, EGYPT. *Photo by Dar D. Daly.*

CHAPTER XX

Luxor, Karnak, Thebes, and King Tut's Tomb

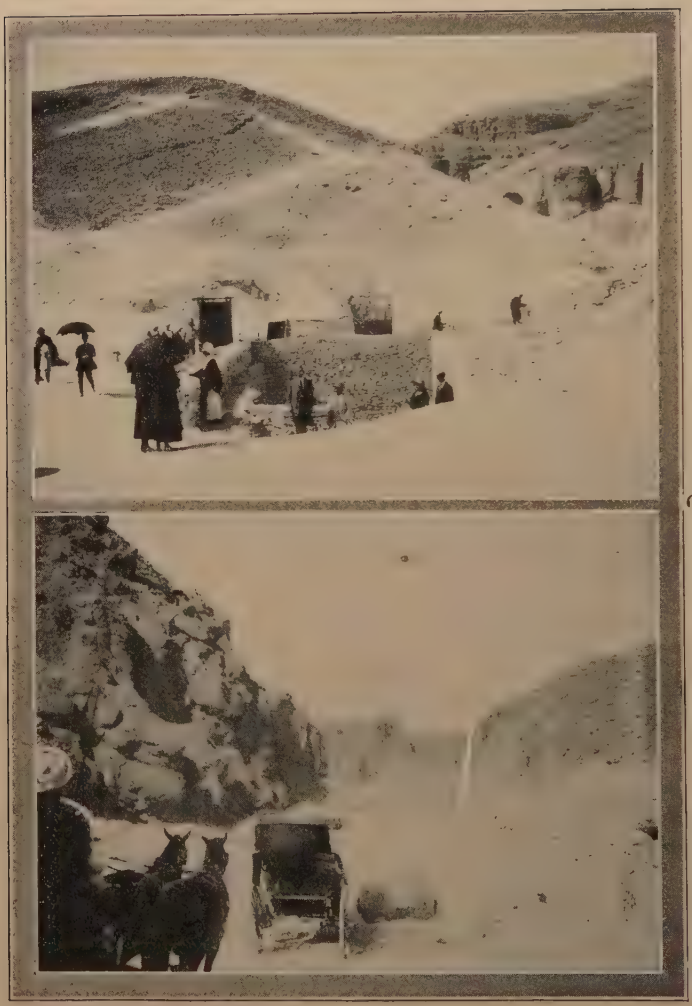
THE above named places are about five hundred miles up the river Nile from Cairo. Much of the distance is through the desert and the weather is nearly always hot. I am going to give the brief story of the visit to these places as it was written on the spot during the latter part of May, 1924.

I have been rambling through the Temple of Luxor, which was built more than thirty-four hundred years ago. Until about fifty years ago, this temple was completely buried beneath the debris of the centuries. My guide was born in a house built upon the ruins. Standing out in front are six colossal statues of Rameses II and one obelisk which is eighty-two feet high. There used to be two obelisks here but one was given to France and is now in the heart of Paris.

Connected with this temple at Luxor by an avenue of Sphinxes, three miles long, is the great temple of Karnak. These Karnak ruins cover an area of one thousand acres of ground, and are so massive that one can hardly believe his own eyes as he looks upon them.

A Wonderful Temple

The main entrance to this temple is one hundred forty-four feet high. I saw the inscription on the wall where the Egyptian King Shishak, as the Bible



Photos by M. G. Geil.

A view of King Tut's tomb.
Going up the valley to King Tut's tomb.

calls him, is seen commemorating his victory over Rehoboam when he sacked Jerusalem and took away the treasures of King Solomon. The scene on the wall represents the Israelites as being brought to Egypt as captives. See I Kings 14:25-26 and II Chronicles 12:2-19.

One great hall in this temple is three hundred thirty-eight feet long and one hundred seventy feet wide. In it there are sixteen rows of gigantic columns (one hundred thirty-four columns) which are eleven feet in diameter and eighty feet high.

In the waters of the sacred lake near by, I saw two natives kill one of the most poisonous snakes in Egypt. They kept their mouths covered during the battle with the serpent, as the poison emitted by the enraged reptile is dangerous, to say the least.

The singing obelisk is near by. It was once a great shaft nearly a hundred feet high, but when overthrown, was broken and part has been taken away. The upper part still lies there and when you slap the point with your hand it sends forth a harmonious hum that is most remarkable. No scientist has yet been able to explain this strange phenomenon.

I have been in the shadows of the great Colossi of Memnon, which guarded the entrance to one of the temples in Thebes, the romantic city of one hundred gates and twenty thousand chariots of iron, during the old days.

The Singing Statue

One of these great statues was the world-famous vocal Memnon, which used to give forth a musical sound at sunrise in the morning. Scientists discovered that the dampness absorbed by the statue

Photos by Dr. Dunkle and M. G. Geil.

COPTIC CHURCH IN EGYPT.
THE AUTHOR AT THE WALLED UP ENTRANCE OF KING TUT'S TOMB.

during the night time emitted the musical sounds in its passage out through certain crevices as the morning sun warmed the statue. When these crevices were filled, the music stopped, so what the ancients thought was the singing of their god, was nothing but a natural phenomenon, after all.

Each of these colossi was a statue made from a single stone sixty feet high, representing the god seated upon a throne. As I passed by I thought if they could speak they could tell a story that would make the world shudder.

King Tut's Tomb

These days, the central object of interest in Upper Egypt, however, is King Tut's Tomb. Before speaking of this I wish to say that there are a great many tombs of ancient kings in this locality. I have visited many of them and have seen sights wonderful to behold.

In all the tombs visited, I saw but four mummies. These tombs of the kings were robbed of their mummies many years ago. The story of how many of the mummies were found is thrilling.

In 1874, a couple of the natives of Thebes discovered a huge cave or shaft filled with a large number of royal mummies with a lot of treasures that were hidden by the robbers. The coffins indicated that they were three Thebian rulers. These two men agreed to keep their good fortune secret and profit by it. From time to time they sold to tourists rich jewels, scarabs, amulets, etc.

Finally, one of these brothers told his wife where they were getting this wealth and of course that let the cat out of the bag, and the secret finally became known. The great museum in Cairo now contains

RUINS AT THE TEMPLE OF KARNAK IN EGYPT.

Photos by M. G. Geil.

these royal mummies and many of the treasures found with them.

Hunted Fourteen Years for Tomb

After fourteen years of searching, the tomb of King Tut was found in November, 1922. In it was the wealth of a kingdom and the mummy of the king himself. I saw in the museum of Cairo very many of the treasures that had been locked in the bowels of the earth thirty-four hundred years. The surprising thing is that many of the articles of furniture are of practically the same pattern that we use today.

The outer shrine which contained the body of King Tut is seventeen feet long, twelve feet wide and nine feet high. This is covered on the outside and inside with gold. This was incased in a second shrine a little smaller, this in a third still smaller, and this in a fourth still smaller which contained the sarcophagus and body. In all, there were three thousand square feet of pure gold covering, about twenty dollars of gold being used to the square foot. The gold, jewels, diamonds and all relics are estimated at the value of fifty million dollars.

King Tut's tomb is now sealed up by solid masonry. It surely would take robbers some time to dig through the wall, which is of stone and cement. It is just below the tomb of Rameses VI and it is now certain that it was so securely hidden that those who dug the tomb for Rameses VI did not know it was there.

Armed Guards at Entrance of Tomb

At the entrance to King Tut's tomb there are a couple of small guard houses, and while I do not

Photos by Dr. Sunkle and M. G. Geil.

ISLAND OF RODA WHERE MOSES WAS FOUND BY PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER. BRICKS THAT WERE MADE WITHOUT STRAW IN EGYPT.

know how many soldiers are stationed there at present, I counted eight rifles in one of these small huts. There are some tents at hand where the soldiers sleep while not on duty.

All this is several miles from Luxor, on the opposite side of the Nile, and in the most desolate and hottest valley on earth. The heat and white dust, together with the flies that stick until knocked off your face, make the whole place almost unbearable during the hot season. In fact, I am told that the chief reason the tomb is walled up so securely is to keep out the terrible summer heat, lest the mummy and other things in the tomb be damaged.

In closing, will say that I handled with my own hands, some of the bricks that were made by the Israelites, and without straw, of which we read in the Bible. It has not rained in this part of the country for generations, so they say.

Photo by Henry Wiederhold.

THE CITY OF CAIRO, EGYPT, AS IT APPEARS TODAY.

CHAPTER XXI

Beyrout, Sidon, and the Lebanon Mountains

YEARS ago, I was quarantined on an Italian steamship in the harbor at Beyrout, Syria, and the memories of those days haunted me as I again entered the harbor.

Many are the changes during the past few years, and Beyrout is now a city containing nearly two hundred thousand people.

About one-fourth of the population is made up of Moslems, and they have twenty-three mosques in the city. These Moslems are very fanatical as a rule.

Three thousand vessels enter and leave the port annually, and the exports of silks, olive oil, etc., amount to more than ten million dollars per year these times.

The city has twenty printing plants, twelve Arabic newspapers, six hospitals, thirty-eight churches, sixty-five schools for boys and twenty-nine schools for girls.

The Harvard of the Near East

But the greatest asset to Beyrout is the American Protestant University, which was founded in 1863 by the Presbyterian church. It now has property worth a million, and an endowment of about one million one hundred twenty thousand dollars. Its fifty-acre campus is dotted with twenty-six buildings, some of which are magnificent structures.

This university is really the Harvard and Yale of the Near East, with a faculty of one hundred and

Photographs by Mr. Lyman and Mr. Wiederhold.

Upper—Plowing in Egypt.

Center—Shepherds and Their Flock.

Lower—At the Tombs of the Kings.

twenty professors, and more than a thousand students. Its graduates are leaders in the great professions and industries of many countries.

One of the most wonderful sights imaginable is from this campus. To the west is the glorious Mediterranean, and to the east and south the great Lebanon ranges, whose snowy peaks above the foothills upon the slopes are almost covered with vegetation, mulberry trees and dotted with villages.

This is a genuine Christian institution, and for years it was headed by Dr. Howard Bliss, who stamped his personality not only upon the institution itself, but in the hearts of thousands of students who have gone out from its halls.

Moslem Students on a Strike

A chapel service is held daily, and at one time the Moslem students went on a strike and took an oath refusing to attend both chapel services and Bible classes. Dr. Bliss informed the striking students that the American University is a strictly Christian institution, and that its students must attend Bible classes and religious services.

He said to these Moslem students, "Our college was established to give the Mohammedan world the best the Christian world has. Our aim is to make of you, broad-minded, intelligent men, whether you continue to be Moslems or become Christians.

"We believe that the best we have is our religion, so we are bound to let you know what it is. Whether you accept it or not rests with yourselves. If, upon investigation, you still think the Moslem religion the best, we believe that the knowledge you have of our religion will make you better and broader Moslems. Religion is for man, not man

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

DOG RIVER, SYRIA. WHERE ASSYRIANS, EGYPTIANS, GREEKS, ROMANS AND OTHERS LEFT INSCRIPTIONS ON THE ROCKS WHEN THEY HELD THE PASS.

for religion, and we want you to have the training which will make each one of you the best man, whether he be Christian or Moslem."

A couple of the most delightful hours I spent in the Near East was at this university under the direction of Dr. Bayard Dodge, who is now the president.

Inscriptions Made by Many Conquerors

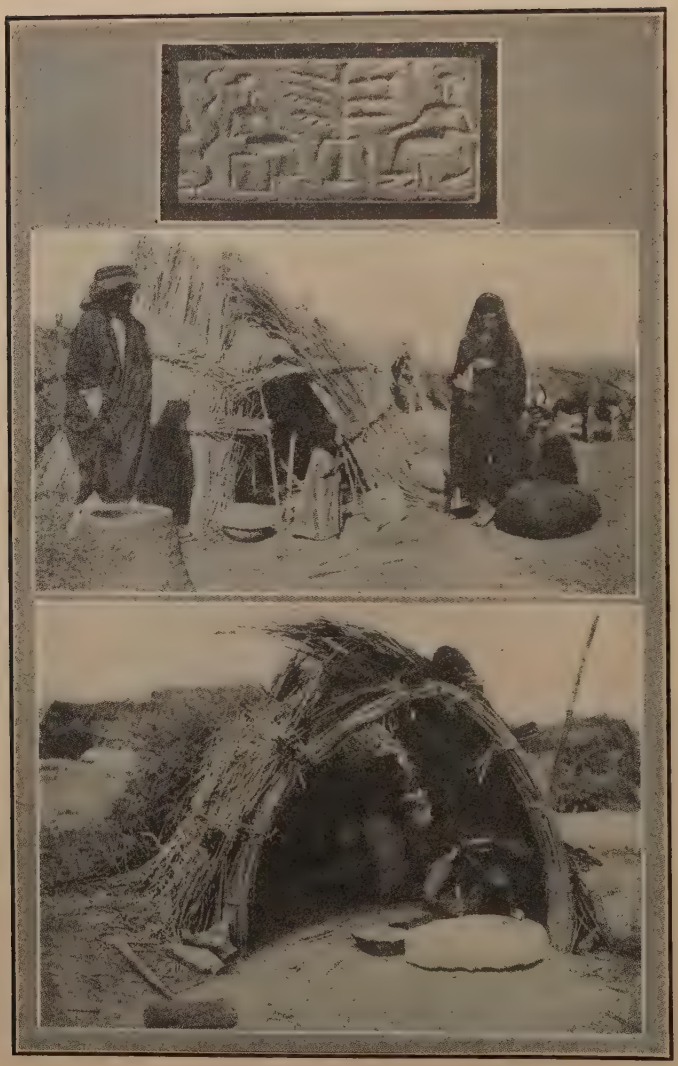
A fine ride out a dozen miles east from Beyrout is to the mouth of Dog River. A great natural cliff stands out into the sea and the pass at the foot is only wide enough for an automobile road. Down in the water at the mouth of the river is a rock shaped a little like a dog. As there are great holes in the rock, some of which reach away back into the cliff, the water passing through these caverns makes a noise which at times resembles the barking of a dog, hence the name, Dog River.

I went up on the side of the cliff and saw the inscriptions made by the nations of antiquity as well as those of later date which have controlled the pass. Among them are Assyrian, Egyptian, Roman and those other nations.

But the greatest drive from Beyrout is down the southern coast along the Mediterranean sea to Sidon and Tyre. I drove down among the Armenian refugee camps on leaving for Sidon. There are many thousands of these refugees in Beyrout.

The Industrious Armenians

The Armenian people are perhaps the most industrious of all in the Near East. They will live any way, but their children must go to school. They organize their own schools, as in every camp



Photos by Albert T. Clay in Light on the Old Testament from Babel.

UPPER—SO-CALLED BABYLONIAN SCENE OF THE FALL OF MAN. AN IMPRESSION OF A SEAL CYLINDER, WITH SACRED TREE, FRUIT, AND SERPENT.

CENTER—HOME SCENE IN THE CAMP OF ARAB WORKMEN AT NIPPUR. IN THE FOREGROUND AN OVEN (THE OLD TESTAMENT TANNUR) IS SEEN.

LOWER—IN THE ARAB CAMP AT NIPPUR, ILLUSTRATING WOMAN GRINDING CORN, THE ANCIENT MILL FOR GRINDING FLOUR.

there are a few who are well enough educated to teach.

I visited some of their shacks and talked with them through an interpreter. Almost every person in the camp has a tragic story of how they escaped from the hands of the Unspeakable Turk.

South of Beyrout are thousands of acres of fig and mulberry orchards; in fact, all kinds of fruit trees. It is a regular Garden of Eden for miles. These gardens and orchards are nearly all irrigated.

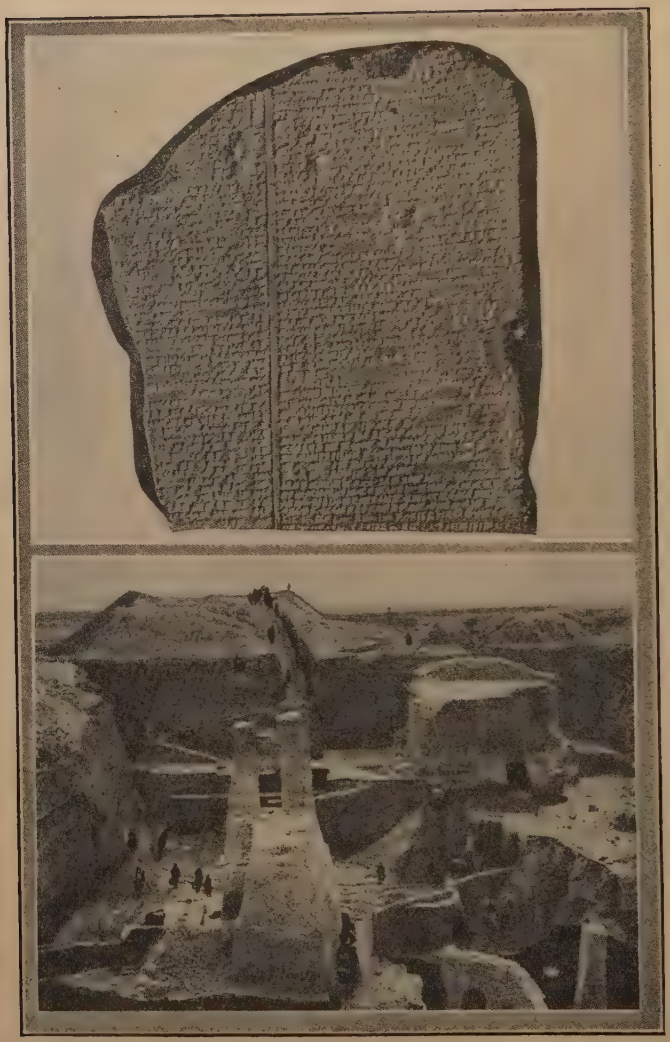
A splendid automobile highway leads all down the coast. One of the most powerful wireless stations I ever saw in any country is a few miles north of old Sidon.

The Sidon Near East Orphanage

On the mountain east of Sidon, the Near East Relief has several large orphanages. In one of these are hundreds of small children, and I never saw such a sight. They gathered around me and others like a lot of little chickens. They held out their little hands and when I stooped down they climbed about me, smiling and talking.

I never saw a more healthy or happier lot of children. When the nurses would pick up one of these tots and tell the story of how it was found by the wayside, almost starved and more dead than alive, I simply could not keep the tears back.

May I say in this connection that the people who have given to the Near East Relief gave much better than they ever dreamed. I visited orphanages in Sidon, in Beyrout, in Nazareth, in Jerusalem, and other places and this work is far more extensive and wonderful than most people ever dreamed.



Photos by Albert T. Clay.

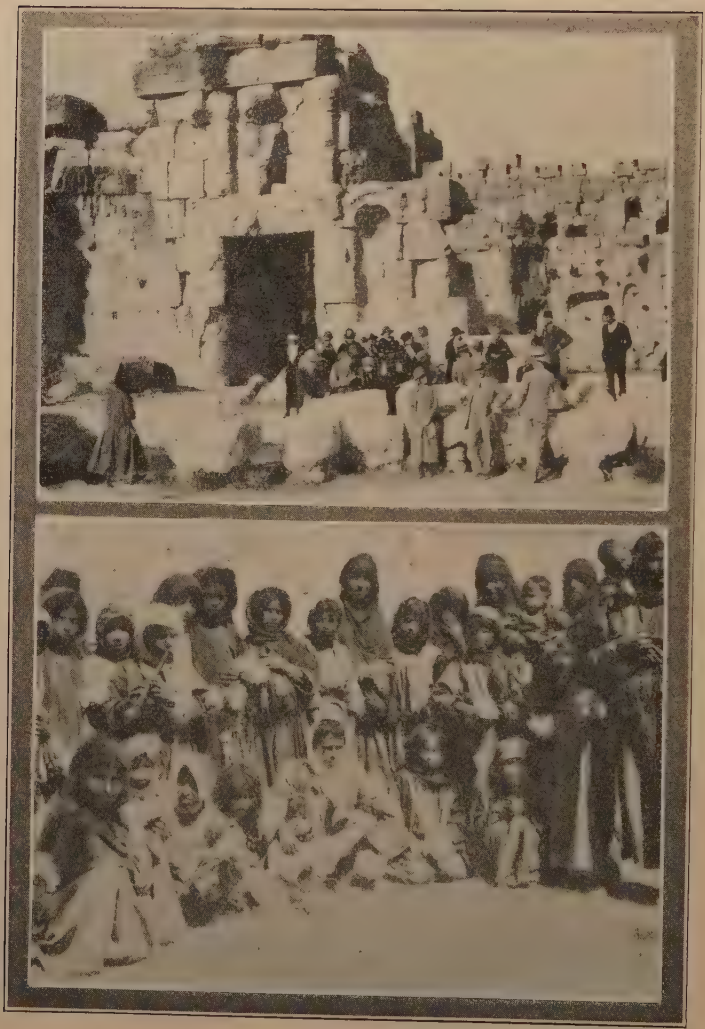
UPPER—THE BABYLONIAN DELUGE STORY.

LOWER—EXCAVATIONS WITHIN THE TEMPLE AREA AT NIPPUR—FROM LIGHT ON THE OLD TESTAMENT FROM BABEL.

A Marvelous Work

At the time I visited these places, the Near East Relief was caring for more than fifty thousand orphans and will have to continue the work for at least three years. Whenever possible, the orphans are restored to their nearest relatives or put out in good homes. Those who are kept are taught to earn their own living. They must spend a certain amount of time in school. All of these children are taught that America has saved them, and you should hear them sing, "My Country 'Tis of Thee!"

A little farther south is Zaraphath or Sarepta, where Elijah stopped with the widow and her son, as recorded in I Kings, seventeenth chapter. Still farther down is old Tyre, which used to be a great city. The prophet said it would be destroyed and that fishermen would use the site for drying their nets. The old city is gone and the prophecy is literally fulfilled before your eyes, as you walk about the old ruins.



THE RUINS OF BAALBEK.
A GROUP OF ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

Photos by H. C. Heckerman.

CHAPTER XXII

Baalbek—The Baal of the Bible

I AM sitting at the window in my room in the Grand New Hotel in Baalbek and within a stone's throw of what some travelers pronounce the world's most stupendous ruins.

It has been my privilege to visit many of the ruins of old Mexico and South America, the great Ming Tombs of China, many of the ruins of India, Burma, Java and Ceylon. I have seen Karnak, Thebes, and crawled into the heart of the great Pyramid of Egypt; have climbed upon the Acropolis at Athens, walked the streets of Pompeii, rambled through the Colosseum, Forum, and the Catacombs of Rome, and am ready to take off my hat to Baalbek!

The ruins of Baalbek are located at the head of a valley between the ranges of the Lebanon mountains. It is some fifty miles, as the crow flies, almost due north of Damascus. This great valley is one of the most productive in this part of Syria. It is now early in the month of May, but wheat is nearly ready to harvest, while in the Lebanon mountains to the west, a snow storm has been raging all day long, and the top of the range looks now like a great snow bank.

The Baal of the Bible

We read a great deal about the worship of Baal in the Bible. The prefix Baal is also attached to the names of many places such as Baal-gad, Baal-

Photos by John H. Hauberg.

UPPER—STONE AT BAALBEK ALMOST SEVENTY FEET LONG.
CENTER AND LOWER—ENTRANCES TO CATACOMBS AT BAALBEK.

hamon, Baal-hazor, Baal-hermon, Baal-tamar and others; thirteen in all. This means that at these places there was a shrine or temple dedicated to Baal to accommodate the Baal worshippers in the locality.

But the great central temple of Baal was at Baalbeka, which is now known as Baalbek. While the modern city only contains some two or three thousand inhabitants, it used to be a great city, containing a quarter of a million people or more.

The Arabs believe that Baalbek is the world's oldest city. They say that Adam and Eve lived here and that Cain killed Abel near, and that Abylene gets it name from Abel; they say, further, that Seth died here and that Noah was buried near, and show the tomb of Noah, which is a mound two hundred feet long.

These Arabs also say that Cain built the first city here and that later the Tower of Babel was erected here. An old Arabic manuscript was found in Baalbek which says, "After the flood, when Nimrod reigned over Lebanon, he sent giants to rebuild the fortress of Baal, which was so named in honor of Baal, the god of the Moabites and worshippers of the sun."

Baalbek the Wonderful

Baalbek is thought by many to be Tiphsah (also known as Baalath) of the Bible mentioned in I Kings 4:24, and that it was between Tyre and Palmyra, and one of the busiest centers in the world. Here Solomon built a temple for his heathen wives.

This city was the center of the Syro-Phoenician religion. People wanted it to be the most wonderful city on earth and gave lavish gifts for its temple.

It is thought that when the Greeks took Baalbek they renamed it Heliopolis, but when the Romans took it a few hundred years later they restored the old name.

As Baal worship was simply the worship of the sun, here was built a Temple to the Sun. It seems that in Old Testament times this great temple was never completed, and when the Romans took it they partially completed the Temple to the Sun and built the Temple of Jupiter.

Then came the Christians, who destroyed very much of the heathen temples and made part of this into a Christian church. Then came the Moslems, who were overcome by the Tartars, who with the aid of some earthquakes about the same time, practically destroyed the temples.

In the sixteenth century, the Moslems took it again and began the work of restoration, when a great flood came and swept a large portion of the city away.

Many Acres of Ruins

The marvelous ruins today are wonderful to behold. The temple ruins cover ten acres of ground. The whole thing is fifty feet above the level of the surrounding area. The Temple of the Sun was more than three hundred feet long and nearly two hundred feet wide. There were in all fifty-four gigantic Corinthian columns supporting the roof. Six of these columns are still standing. It is twenty-two feet around each of these columns, which, with their bases, are eighty feet high.

Think of great columns seven feet in diameter and tall as an eight-story building, standing on end! How they were ever raised, no living man knows. Each column is in three sections, but they look like

one solid block. In these ruins there are two hundred great granite columns three feet in diameter and twenty-seven feet long that came from the granite quarries far up the river Nile in Egypt. How they were conveyed from Egypt to Baalbek is a problem.

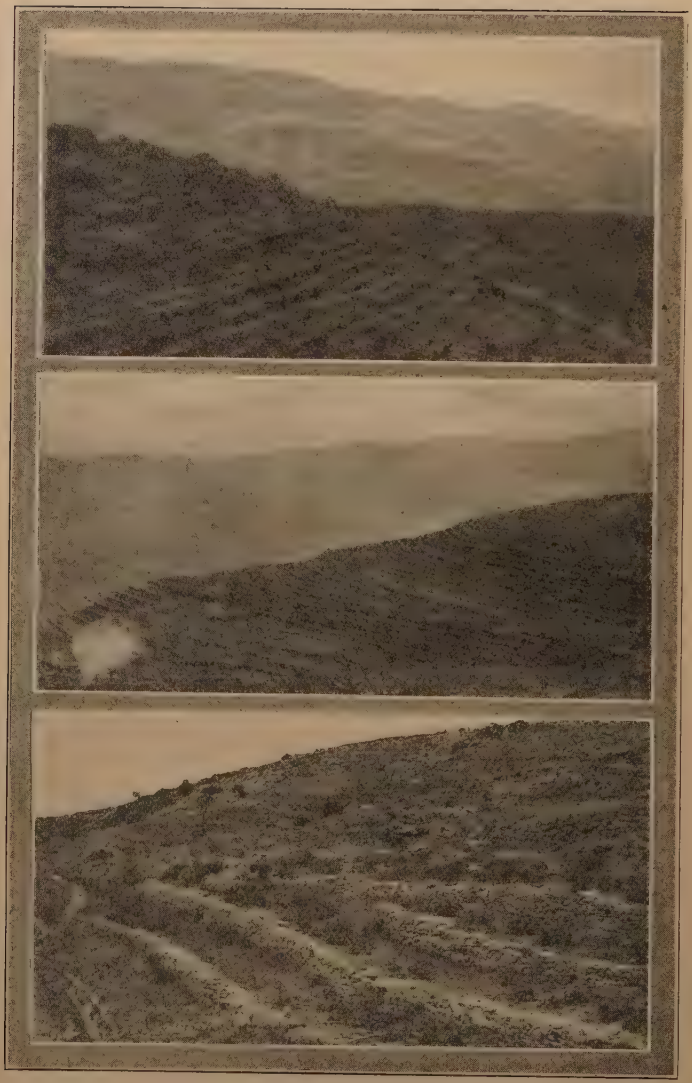
In the walls of this temple are the largest stones ever quarried, so far as known. I saw the three largest, each more than sixty feet long, thirteen feet wide, and twelve feet thick. These are up some twenty feet from the ground. Eighty of these stones laid end to end would reach a mile.

Largest Stone Ever Quarried

The quarries are less than a mile away. Here I saw the largest stone ever cut from the bed rock. It is sixty-eight and one-half feet long, fourteen feet wide, and thirteen feet thick. They say it weighs fifteen hundred tons, and if broken up it would take thirty flat cars to haul it. It has been figured out that it would take forty thousand men, all pulling together, to move this stone one-fourth of an inch per hour.

Beneath the temple I saw some of the dungeons and rooms where the poor people stayed while at Baalbek for worship. Others of these underground caverns were used as stables. One of these great halls that I went through is four hundred feet long and sixteen feet wide.

In one of these temples was the finest statue of the sun god ever discovered. It was made of gold and was a lifesize young man, clad in armor, and standing between two golden bulls. In his right hand was a whip and in his left a thunderbolt and some ears of corn.



Photos by John H. Hauberg.

TERRACED MOUNTAIN SIDES OF THE LEBANON RANGE.

This great plain is very fertile and well watered. The great springs furnish pure water. Grain and fruit of all kinds grow in abundance. But Baalbek was the crossroad of the ancient world.

Only a mile from the temple are some of the greatest catacombs I have ever visited. There are scores of great chambers cut from the solid rock. I saw hundreds of the pick marks, made centuries ago, that look as though they were just made. Many of these underground chambers were used as tombs but some of them are large enough to hold hundreds of people.

A Moses Among His People

People in this part of the country are very backward. Primitive methods are used by most of them. I got acquainted with a young man by the name of Michael Harris who was born and brought up in the country near Baalbek.

This young man is a real genius. He was determined to get an education and went to Beyrout. He finally entered the American Protestant College. He is now studying agriculture. Hearing of a force pump, he procured one, installed it himself, and forced the water into his father's house. It is the wonder of the community and others are now trying to get them.

Young Harris heard of a self-binder. As his father raised wheat, he kept on until he got one, year before last, and introduced it into this great plain, and now there are three self-binders near Baalbek. This young man is the hero of this whole country. People come to him for miles around to learn about machinery and agriculture.

Photos by Miss Haller and Miss Breithaupt.

THE ABANA RIVER IN DAMASCUS.
A STREET SCENE IN DAMASCUS.
A VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS OF LEBANON.

CHAPTER XXIII

The World's Oldest City

FOR three days I have been rambling through the oldest city in the world. I visited Damascus the first time just twenty years ago. Many changes have taken place during these years, but one thing is the same—yesterday, today, and forever, viz.: the smell. I recognized the odor before the train stopped, and I said to my traveling companions, "I know this is Damascus for no one can forget its smell." It is the famous "fifty-seven varieties" all in one.

Rome is spoken of as the "Eternal City," but thousands of years before Remus and Romulus were fed by the she wolf, Damascus was perhaps as great and populous as it is today.

Long before "King Tut" lived in Egypt, or even the Pyramids or Sphinx were built, Damascus was. Josephus says it was founded by Uz, the grandson of Noah. In fact, the only district which abounds in traditional associations with the antedeluvian patriarchs is very near Damascus.

The Rivers of Damascus

The city itself almost owes its existence to the Abana (Barada, as it is now called) River. It rises away in the mountains and flows through the heart of the city. A couple of blocks below my hotel, it seems to flow underground, and houses and shops are built over it.

WALL AT DAMASCUS WHERE SAUL WAS LET DOWN IN A BASKET. *Photo by Dar D. Daly.*

The Pharpar comes within seven miles of the city, and these two rivers flow to the east and make one of the richest and most fertile plains in all the world. The Abana loses itself in the sands of the desert, and is spoken of as the river that has neither source nor mouth; the Pharpar is almost the same.

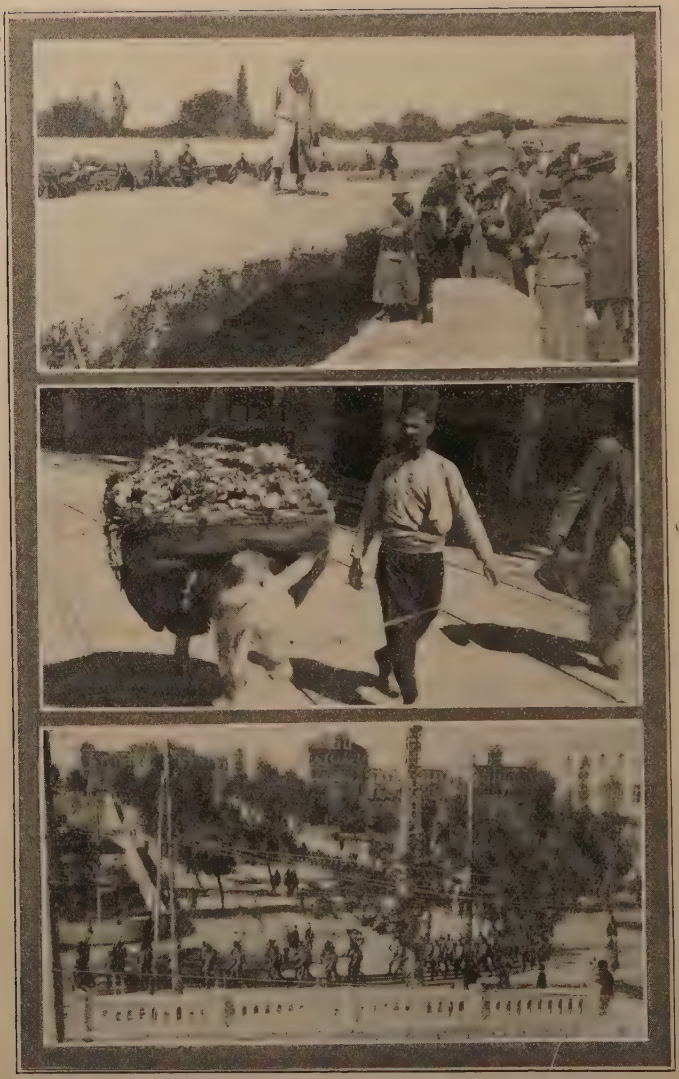
People here have always loved these rivers, for they are really life-giving streams. Were it not for them no one could live on this plain. This shows the significance of the statement of Naaman, the Syrian, who so proudly boasted of them when Elisha told him to go and dip himself in the river Jordan. See II Kings, 5:12.

From the days when Abraham secured the services of Eliezer, of Damascus, this city has had some very active and industrious people. In fact, the name "Damascus" is made up from two words that when put together mean "renowned for activity." In no Oriental city does one see so many people at work as here.

The Street Called Straight

Several times I have traversed from end to end the Street called "Straight." It is about one mile in length, so narrow in places that two carriages can hardly pass each other. Mark Twain was not far from correct when he said it is about as straight as a corkscrew. He called attention to the fact that the Bible writer did not say it was a straight street, but a street called "Straight."

Twenty years ago I visited the so-called "House of Ananias," and when I saw it again it was as though I had seen it but yesterday. Not a single change in anything in twenty years. Years ago a small Italian church was built over it. Perhaps



Photos by John H. Hauberg.

Reputed hiding place of St. Paul in Damascus.
A street scene in Damascus.
One of the finest streets in Damascus.

fifty or sixty people can be crowded into it. To reach it one has to go down about twenty steps—it is a basement room.

An interesting place is the room in the old city wall which is pointed out as the spot where Paul was let down from the wall in a basket. Some distance away is pointed out a cave, or opening in the rocks, where tradition says he took refuge for the night. I don't believe a word of it. I imagine Paul got out of the city long before morning.

Man Can Only Enter Paradise Once

Going up on the mountain side, I had a wonderful view of the entire city, which is the shape of a large spoon with a long handle. I can see the significance of the saying of Mohammed as he turned away from the city without entering, "For," said he, "if I once set my foot in such an earthly paradise, I shall have no desire left for the paradise of the hereafter; and man can only enter paradise once."

From the mountain side I had a good view of Hobah, where Abraham with his three hundred eighteen armed servants, overtook the armies of the five kings by a surprise night attack, and rescued Lot and his family, with all the other captives, together with their goods. See Genesis 14:15.

As far as the eye can see on this Plain of Damascus, or at least to the desert mountains many miles away, are the luxuriant and fruitful gardens of the villagers who sell their produce and fruit in the city. It is said that there are more than one hundred of these villages on this fertile plain around the city.

The Fanatical Mohammedans

Damascus has a population of nearly three hundred thousand people and four-fifths of them are Moslems. It is one of the most fanatical Mohammedan cities in the world. In the heart of the city is the great Mosque. There are seventy other large mosques and a hundred seventy-seven smaller mosques, sometimes called schools, in the city.

The only one of these churches I have visited is the great central mosque. It was a place of worship long before Mohammed was born. In the days of Naaman, the Syrian, it was called the "House of Rimmon," to which he alluded in II Kings, 5:18. This "Rimmon" was the great god of the Syrians, and this was his temple.

This temple was so richly adorned that Ahaz, King of Judah, was so struck with admiration when he visited it that he carried away some of the rich ornaments to add to the glories of the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem.

About the beginning of the Christian era, the temple of Rimmon was destroyed by the Romans, and they erected on the spot a splendid "Temple of Jupiter." This was in turn destroyed by the Christians in the fifth century, who erected what was said to be a glorious Christian cathedral, which was for two hundred years the most famous Christian church building known.

Made a Mosque of a Christian Church

In the seventh century, the Mohammedans took it and changed it into a great mosque. They enriched and embellished it with priceless jewels and mosaics, but thirty years ago it was burned. The fire raged for eighteen hours, and only the church

walls, blackened arches and great pillars were left. However, it was quickly rebuilt, and stands today as the greatest of all Moslem churches in the city. The great room is almost a hundred and fifty feet long and nearly half as wide. The floors are entirely covered with rugs, many of which are very fine. I was told that these were all donated by devout members of the faith.

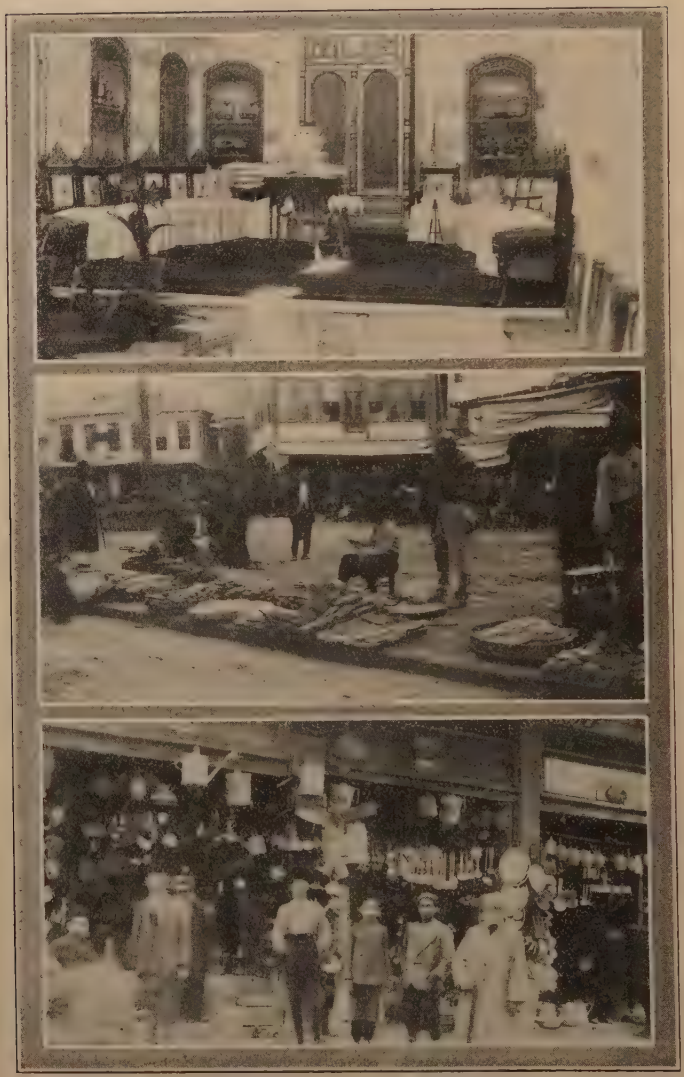
At night the interior of this mosque must be quite a sight. It is lighted up by electricity, but standing on either side of the various shrines are gigantic candles a foot in diameter and more than ten feet in height. These are all lighted at night, and will last a whole year.

There is practically no place in the Moslem worship for women and children. It is a man's religion. The men keep their hats on while they worship. There are five calls for prayer every day. Friday is their Sunday. Many of them go to their mosques in the morning and open their places of business in the afternoon.

Interesting Services on Sunday

Sunday morning I attended services at the Anglican church. Dr. McFarland is the minister. I arrived early and went in near the closing service for Syrians. The preacher at this service was a Syrian, and all seemed to me earnest worshippers. The attendance was quite large.

Sunday afternoon I went to the Sunday school at the same church. It was a wonderful sight to see five hundred crowded into the service. This is one Sunday school where Christian and Jewish, Syrian and Armenian children work together. The Jewish girls sat together, the Syrian girls in another



Photos by John H. Haubery.

UPPER—INTERIOR PRIVATE HOME, DAMASCUS.
CENTER—BREAD MERCHANT ON DAMASCUS STREET.
LOWER—DAMASCUS STREET SCENE.

group, and the boys of all nationalities sat on the other side of the room.

I never heard more enthusiastic singing. While the Arabic language was used, of course, yet they have our tunes. The boys nearly raised the roof when they sang, "Yes, Jesus Loves Me," etc., while the girls did almost as well with "Tell Me the Old, Old Story."

At the present time this country is practically under the French. I saw their aeroplane base at Rayak. It is said when trouble breaks out in any community, the French send a couple of these aeroplanes over and drop a few bombs among the revolutionists, and the trouble is settled at once.

THE CITY OF ATHENS.

Photo by Miss Maude Parsons.

CHAPTER XXIV

Athens, the Religious City of Bible Times

ONE of the most interesting cities of Bible times was Athens. Also, from the standpoint of architecture, dramatic art, literature, philosophy, athletics and in a dozen other ways. Athens is a great historic city.

The natural landing place, or port city, is Piraeus, which is but a half dozen miles from Athens. At the present time it is all practically one city. On my first visit, I used the tram line from the port, but on a recent visit the automobile seemed to be the most practical.

This latter occasion was on a holiday and the streets were crowded with people who were holding some kind of a celebration. Conditions were rather critical and, on reaching the museum, several explosions were heard around the corner. Of course, I thought it was part of the day's celebration, yet I thought it strange that so many people were running.

In the Midst of a Revolution

Come to find out, this was a clash between some revolutionists and soldiers in the city. When the trouble makers had gone so far and were commanded to desist and refused, the soldiers fired upon them. While no one happened to be killed, yet many were injured. This rather interfered with the sight-seeing of the day.

RUINS OF THE PARTHENON AT ATHENS.

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

Exciting as this scrimmage was, it was no more exciting than was my first visit to Athens years ago. Perhaps I can do no better than to tell of this former visit as I wrote it at that time. Of course, I wanted to visit the Royal Palace, but hardly knew how to proceed, as at that time I could find no one who could speak English. On the wide walk in front were a number of armed guards and at the door two stood almost like statues. Not knowing about the manner of procedure, and being unable to find anyone who could give me proper information, I went up the walk hurriedly and, paying no attention to the sentinels, just opened the door and walked in.

An Amusing Experience

The things that happened are amusing now, but they were anything but amusing at the time. The moment I stepped into the Palace two men grabbed me as though I were a robber. In a moment all was excitement. Ushers and other men seemed to be running in every direction. The men hustled me to a long seat and we all sat down, they holding to my arms. Everybody seemed to be talking at once; of course it was all Greek to me.

Finally, a gentleman was brought by an usher who said, "Do you speak English, sir?" "Yes, sir, when I can find anybody to talk to," was the reply. Speaking a few words to the men holding my arms, I was released, and this gentleman sat down and began to ask questions thick and fast. The matter was soon cleared up with ample apologies on both sides. My passports, both United States and Turkish, and other documents and letters satisfied him and he personally spent an hour showing me

THE STADIUM AT ATHENS.

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

through the Royal Palace, even allowing me to go into the Throne room, which was the richest and most beautiful in the way of artificial decorations that it has ever been my pleasure to visit.

The World-Famous Stadium

Not far from the royal palace is the Stadium where the famous Grecian games and races took place. These were as popular as the great football or baseball games are today. Our modern football fields are largely modeled after the Stadium at Athens. This great, oval-shaped race course is nearly seven hundred feet long and about one-fourth as wide. There are sixty rows of seats, one almost above another, on three sides. Fifty thousand people could easily be accommodated.

There is yet to be seen the tunnel, through which the defeated athletes retired after the games, and the stairway up which the victors went to the top where they were crowned with the laurel wreath. These games were clean and were attended by the best people. The Apostle Paul mentions them a half dozen times in his letters in the New Testament.

This great ruin has been largely restored by a rich man from Alexandria, Egypt. The almost endless rows of seats are made from beautiful white marble and the whole thing is most impressive.

Not far from the Stadium is all that remains of the great Temple of Jupiter. This consists of fifteen massive Corinthian columns and as I looked at them, could hardly realize that these were real columns rather than some old painting. The old days must have been great days to produce such

MARS' HILL AT ATHENS.

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

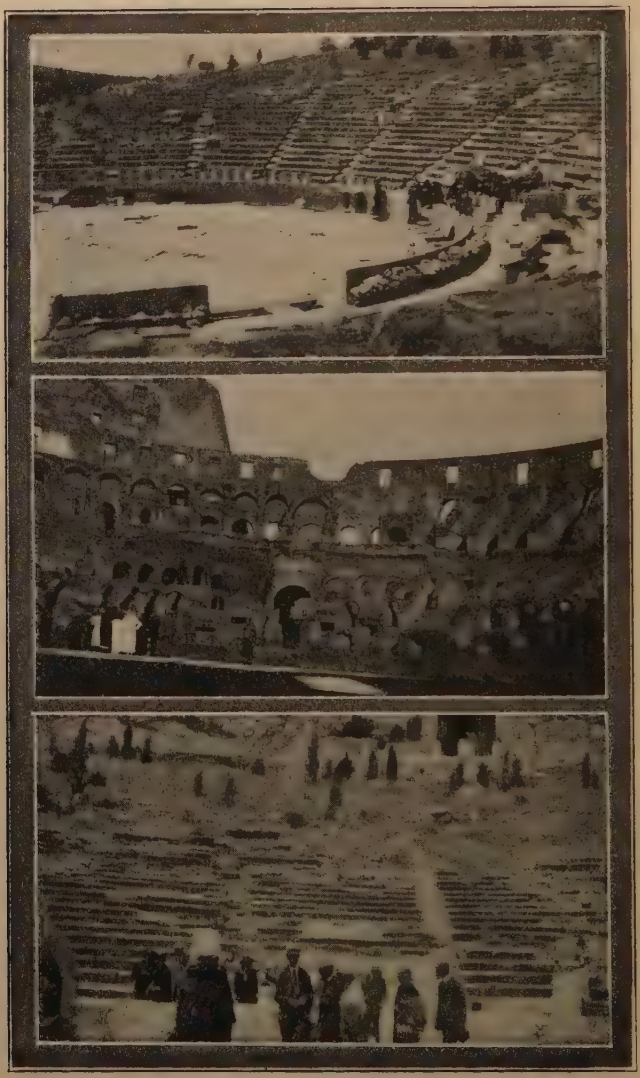
wonderful temples whose ruins we behold today. This is said to have been one of the largest temples of antiquity, and in it was a statue of Jupiter, sixty feet high, which was overlaid with ivory and gold.

An Old Greek Theater

Passing "Diogenes Lantern," I next visited the Theater of Bacchus, which has been called the "cradle of dramatic art." On this stage Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes, had their masterpieces presented. Plato says this theater held thirty thousand spectators, but the size of the ruins makes one doubt the word of this old philosopher. The Odeon of Herod Atticus was next visited. This is much smaller than the Theater of Bacchus, but was far more expensive, as it was built for the select "four hundred" rather than the common people.

The above-named ruins are at the foot of the world famous Acropolis. This is a great round hill, about two miles around the base, more than three hundred feet high with a flat top upon which are some of the most wonderful ruins to be seen anywhere. The sides are almost perpendicular, and it is impossible to go to the top except from one side.

Ascending near the top of this wonderful hill or mountain on the side of the highway is a great rock, about twenty feet high, shaped somewhat like an egg, but with a flat top. A flight of twenty-five or more rude steps cut in the rock makes it possible to reach the top. This is called the Areopagus. Away back in prehistoric times the god Mars here attempted to justify murder and it took the name of Mars' Hill.



Photos by Miss Haller and Mr. Haubery.

RUINS OF A GREAT AMPHITHEATER.
RUINS OF THE COLOSSEUM AT ROME.
RUINS OF THEATER OF BACCHUS AT ATHENS.

Climbing Upon Mars' Hill

My! what memories the climbing of this hill inspires! Here they used to hold open court and try the most desperate criminals. But the memory of this rock is made sacred by the great sermon preached by the Apostle Paul. Here the wiseacres of Athens, who spent their time trying to learn something new, gathered on that memorable day when the orator of New Testament fame made them "sit up and take notice." He smashed their pet idols into smithereens and quoted their own poets and philosophers to prove they were deluded. Some of them mocked him, but as this little man climbed down these rock-cut steps, he left something on Mars' Hill that the world has not yet forgotten. His work was not in vain, either, for Dionsyius, the Areopagite, was converted and a little to the west of this hill is the foundation of a very ancient church which was dedicated to this first Athenian convert to Christianity. Saint Paul, they tell us, was physically weak and nearsighted, and I almost wondered how he got up and down those steps, for I found it very difficult, to say the least.

The Wonderful Parthenon

But of all the majestic ruins on earth, The Parthenon stands out as one of the most wonderful. Some one has said that it is "that inimitable masterpiece of antiquity, that eternal study, that eternal despair of the architects of all ages, of all countries." This natural fortress on which it stands used to be the residence of kings, and later was made a fort. Themistocles and Cimon surrounded it with massive walls and Pericles adorned it with

magnificent edifices, the ruins of which excite the admiration of every visitor.

Sitting upon a broken column, I had a wonderful view of Athens and the surrounding country, and also had a chance to test the truth of the saying, "There is a point in the atmosphere where all the sounds of the street mingle together into one harmonious tone." Before me, three hundred feet below, was spread out the city, and the rattle of the horses' hoofs, the rumble of the cars, the shouts of the populace, the noise of the streets—these sounds all seemed to be like some wonderful tune played upon a great harp by a master hand.

In crossing the country of Greece, I was amazed at its smallness. It is not half as large as Iowa. The canal across the Isthmus of Corinth is a very small affair—only four or five miles long and only small ships can pass through it. The ruins of old Corinth are not far away. A few broken columns are about all one can see from a distance. The preaching of the Apostle Paul in Greece and his letters to the people at Corinth have had a far greater influence on the world than all the conquests of the warriors of this world-famous little country.

CHAPTER XXV

Rome, the Eternal City

BUT few cities on earth are more interesting than old Rome. My recent visit seemed more interesting than any other, although I saw many changes from what it was when I first visited the city twenty years ago. It is now a great modern city with splendid hotels, many beautiful streets and magnificent buildings.

One of the show places of modern Rome is Saint Peter's and the Vatican. I have rambled through this great church and the adjoining buildings and looked at the hundreds of paintings of master artists until my eyes were tired of looking. Many always try to get an audience with the Pope, but I have never been interested in seeing him.

To me, it was far more interesting to ride down the world-famous Appian Way a few miles and then go down into the wonderful catacombs, where the early Christians used to hold their services and bury their dead.

Meaning of the Forum

The great center of the Eternal City used to be the Forum; this word means simply a "place out of doors." This is one place I always enjoy seeing, for it is one of the most interesting places in the world. My! What memories cluster about the old Roman Forum! Today, it is the center of some of the most wonderful ruins on earth. Walking but

Photos by Curtis Glick, Theodore Smith and Dar D. Daly.

THE COLOSSEUM AT ROME.
ST. PETER'S CHURCH—ROME.
TOMB OF VICTOR IMMANUEL—ROME.

a few blocks from the heart of the modern city, I was literally surrounded by ruins which were glorious two thousand years ago. Here they were: temples, the great Arch of Titus, the Colosseum and a hundred other places, each of which inspires memories of long ago.

In the center of this Forum used to be the Golden Milestone. This was not only the heart of the Eternal City, but was the center of Roman civilization. From this center, the great Roman roads radiated in all directions. A little later we will go down the "Appian Way." This center, too, served as a gathering place where speeches were made on all sorts of subjects. Then it was turned into a great market place. Around this center were shops and schools and Roman courts. Here were money changers, gamblers and often great fist fights.

In those days there were no newspapers and the Forum was visited to get the news, the results of the election, or the announcement of the events of the morrow. On the platform where the orators spoke, the crier would stand and with mighty voice give to the multitudinous throng the news of the day. Yonder, at the side, was a hut where a fire was kept continually burning, tended by young maidens. It was hard to get fire in those days when there were no matches, and here the daughters and wives of warriors came to get a spark to keep the home fires burning.

The City on Seven Hills

Now, I am standing on an elevated rock, trying to pick out the seven hills upon which the ancient city was built, or locate the old Tarpeian Rock; now, I am sitting on a broken column, living over

the days when the great struggle for freedom from autocracy, not unlike the struggle of today, was on.

The rich men were called Patricians and the poor men Plebeians. The rich men made the laws, loaned the money and lived in luxury, while the poor men tilled the soil, did the work and were the common soldiers. Often after fighting for his country the poor Plebeian would return, only to find his land seized and his home in ruins. Thus began the great struggle between the common people and the autocrats.

I imagined I could almost see that old wretched man, with chains clanking as he walked into the Forum one day. His pinched face, his thin body, which was clothed in rags, his uncombed hair, his haggard look, showed the intensity of his suffering. Some one, thinking he recognized the old man, called attention to him and said, "Was not this man a brave soldier, Did he not serve Rome with honor, How has he come to such a pass?"

A Striking Historic Incident

Then the old man spoke, uncovering his breast and body, showing nearly a half hundred wounds; uncovering his back, the people saw welts and blood still flowing from freshly-made, cruel blows. He told the people how he had fought for Rome and returned home only to find his home in ashes, his cattle stolen, and his lands unjustly taxed; how he was compelled to borrow money from one of these rich Patricians, how he became ill and could not pay, and how he had been beaten, chained, and thrown in prison, from which he had just made his escape!

The sad appeal of this old man stirred the blood of the common people against the Patricians, and

in the midst of the uproar, a horseman riding at full speed into the Forum announced that the enemy was at the gates of Rome. The call to arms was sounded, but the Plebeians refused to budge saying, "Let the powerful Patricians save Rome." The rich were in desperate straits and hardly knew what to do. Soon the senators assembled, however, acted quickly, and promised safety to families and homes of soldiers defending Rome. At this the Plebeians enrolled their names, fought valiantly and saved the city.

The Temple of Agriculture

My! If these stones could speak the whole world would stop to listen! Yonder stand the eight mighty columns—all that is left of the great Temple of Saturn. This was the oldest temple in the Forum and was dedicated to the god of agriculture. Beneath the temple was the Sacred Treasury, where the riches of the people were kept. Here originated the carnival—a feast which lasted seven days. It began in blood, as we are told that thirty human beings were offered as a sacrifice, and lights were kept burning around the tomb. During this feast all people stood equal, and joyous freedom ruled the hour. "Slaves were waited upon by their masters, prisoners were set at liberty, criminals were often pardoned and no battles were fought during that happy time."

The Arch of Titus

A most imposing ruin is the Arch of Titus, which was erected to commemorate the taking of Jerusalem. The bas-reliefs on this Arch represent the spoils of the Temple; the seven-branch golden can-

RUINS OF THE ROMAN FORUM.

Photo by Dar D. Daly.

dlesticks, the golden table, the Ark and other spoils. These treasures, taken from the temple, were kept in the Temple of Peace, which has been entirely destroyed. A tradition says that these sacred spoils which were taken from the temple in Jerusalem were finally thrown into the river Tiber to keep them from falling into the hands of enemies.

Of course, I went down into the old Mamertine prison, where St. Paul was incarcerated. The opening at the top of this dungeon reminds one of a manhole above a sewer. The dungeon itself reminds one of a gigantic ink bottle about fifteen feet in diameter and seven feet deep. In the old days, the only opening was at the top and prisoners were simply thrown in. There is a seat of rock about two feet high on a small shelf in the rock about four feet high. There was a subterranean passage from the dungeon to the Forum so that the prisoner could be taken direct from prison to trial.

I almost shuddered as I entered this dismal place. Now, one can go down a stairway by the side and enter the prison. Here Paul spent so many lonely hours, but out of this prison came some of the best letters that were penned by mortal man, and which are now read daily wherever the Bible is known.

The Roman Colosseum

But one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of all ruins is the Colosseum. This is one of the most amazing miracles of architecture on earth, covering about five acres of ground. It is what you might say four stories high, but the structure towered one hundred eighty feet above the ground. The first three have great entering arches. There are eighty of these arches to each story. There

were eighty-seven thousand seats and fifteen thousand more could be accommodated by standing. Seats were numbered and checks were given which were not unlike checks given in our theaters today. It was built nineteen hundred years ago; it has been shaken repeatedly by earthquakes; lightning bolts have ploughed into its walls; invader's hands have despoiled and devastated it; cannon have been turned upon it; storms and floods and fire have engulfed it, but it stands today, majestically, like a mountain peak on the highway of the ages.

The arena covers nearly fifty thousand square feet. Beneath were the subterranean vaults where the wild beasts were kept. Yonder is the door where they were admitted to the arena. There was another passage through which the dead bodies of the gladiators and others were dragged away. This was called the gate of death. A wall, eleven feet high, protected the spectators. Above this was the place of honor reserved for the emperor, the vestal virgins and the senators. The first tier of seats above was for knights, tribunes and their families. Still above, there were certain tiers reserved for the soldiers and above them the common people, the men being separated from the women. One can still see some of the places where the movable cover was fastened, as the whole thing was sometimes covered with an awning to keep out sunshine and rain.

The Great Gladiatorial Contests

Many different times I have gone to see this vast ruin. I almost imagined I could see the contests between man and beast. At the dedication, which lasted a hundred days, they tell us that nine thou-

sand beasts and three thousand men fought in a horrible death struggle. The arena was a lake of blood. Then, in imagination, I could see the flood gates opened and the water was soon many feet deep. Then came the boats, and men fought to death in a struggle as in a great sea fight.

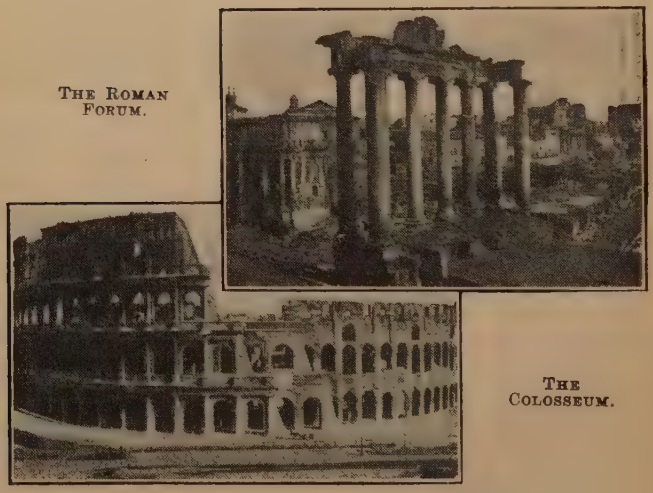
But the saddest of all scenes that took place in this arena must have been the times when hundreds of men, women and children were brought in, singing the songs of Zion, when the gates were opened and hundreds of ferocious wild beasts tore their bodies limb from limb and feasted upon their flesh and blood! While the jaws of the beasts crunched the bodies of the helpless, their screams were drowned by the clapping of hands and cheers of the thousands in the seats!

A Noble Sacrifice

Then, I tried to call to mind the last gladiatorial contest ever held in this weird place. As usual, the great Colosseum was crowded and the bands discoursed music that brought many cheers. The fountains were opened and the air was filled with the odors of heliotrope and frankincense. As usual, the gladiators marched around to the emperor's box and facing him said, "We who are about to die, salute you!" Finally, when the contest was near the close, two stalwart gladiators were battling alone, each trying to kill the other.

All at once, high up among the common people, a man jumped from his seat, ran over to the end and into the aisle. Down he ran to the very tier of seats occupied by the emperor, and, leaping down over the eleven foot wall he separated the gladiators. The people were so mad that they

killed the man who interfered with their sport on the spot. But the next day Rome woke up, so they tell us, and an edict came forth which ordered the gladiatorial contests discontinued forever. True, that man, Telemachus was his name, lost his life, but by his noble sacrifice, multiplied thousands of lives were saved.



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